SAM HARDING LAW FIRM SAM HARDING, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 1877 1100 East Bridger Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 333-7777 Facsimile: (702) 384-5731 **Attorney for Claimants**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

In re SEVEN RESORTS, INC. a Nevada) corporation, d/b/a SEVEN CROWN) 2:10-cv-01149-PMP-LRL RESORTS, as owner of a certain 1986) houseboat manufactured by Master) In Admiralty Fabricators; Summit Model; Echo Bay rental) No. 224, for exoneration from or limitation) of liability,) Plaintiff.)

MOTION TO DISMISS OF CLAIMANTS

Mary Jolynn Murphy and Michael Browning, individually and as the natural parents of Joshua Murphy, deceased, and Mary Jolynn Murphy as Special Administrator of the Estate of Joshua Murphy, deceased, (hereinafter "Claimants") by and through their undersigned attorneys, move this Court pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6), to dismiss the Amended Complaint for Exoneration from or Limitation of Liability of Seven Resorts, Inc. d/b/a Seven Crown Resorts (hereinafter "Seven Crown" or Plaintiff in Limitation) alleging special admiralty jurisdiction and claim pursuant to the Shipowner's Limitation of Liability Act of 1851, 46 U.S.C. §§ 30501-12 (sometimes referred to as "LOLA" or the Act) and Supplemental Rule F for Certain Admiralty or Maritime Claims.

Case 2:10-cv-01149-PMP-LRL Document 20 Filed 11/17/10 Page 2 of 83

1 This motion is based upon the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities in 2 support of Motion to Dismiss of Claimants, the Declaration of Counsel, its supporting Exhibits, 3 and any further argument entertained by this Court at the hearing of this Motion. 4 DATED this 17th day of November, 2010. 5 SAM HARDING LAW FIRM 6 7 By: <u>/s/ Sam Harding</u> Sam Harding, Esq. 8 Nevada Bar No. 1877 1100 East Bridger Ave. 9 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 10 Telephone: (702) 333-7777 11 suecash@live.com 12 13 Nevada Bar No. 5092 14 15 16 Facsimile: (702) 228-0443 DPrince@PrinceKeating.com 17 **Attorneys for Claimants** 18

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS OF CLAIMANTS

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The Plaintiff in Limitation, Seven Crown, has brought this special admiralty claim in an attempt thwart a state tort action arising from the death of Joshua Murphy, the son of Mary Jolynn Murphy and Michael Browning. Seven Crown is attempting to manipulate an 1851 statute designed to encourage commercial ship building, and limit its damages recoverable by the Claimants to the alleged value of a houseboat, between \$30,000 and \$40,000. Claimants seek dismissal upon the grounds that this Court lacks subject matter admiralty jurisdiction because Seven Crown did not file its Complaint within the six month period after notice as provided by 46 U.S.C. §§ 30511(a). Claimants also seek dismissal pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6), for lack of subject matter admiralty jurisdiction, both facially and factually, because Seven Crown cannot establish the connection test for admiralty jurisdiction, and because Seven Crown cannot establish the absence of "privity or knowledge," necessary for relief under the Limitation of Liability Act, 46 U.S.C. § 30505(b).

1. Statement of Facts

The facts before this Court stem from the tragic death of an eleven year old boy, Joshua Murphy, who died from carbon monoxide asphyxiation with drowning as a secondary cause. The incident occurred at a cove on the western side of Lake Mead, north of Echo Bay and south of Pump House Cove. On August 20, 2009, Michael Browning, the father of Joshua Murphy, had returned from Echo Bay Marina between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. to their houseboat that they rented from Seven Crown, identified as Echo Bay rental houseboat No. 224. It was believed that the generator of the houseboat was turned on at that time. Shortly before 8:30 p.m., Michael Browning was grilling on the bow of the vessel and his son, Joshua Murphy, was near

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the starboard stern playing on a raft that was tied to the houseboat at or just forward of the starboard stern gate. (See Exhibit 3 National Park Service, Incident Report, LAME 09-2562). Michael Browning told Joshua Murphy to get out of the water, that it was about dinner time and Joshua Murphy replied, "Okay, Daddy." A few minutes later, other parties on the houseboat began inquiring where Joshua Murphy was, and they looked inside the houseboat and did not find him. They looked on both sides of the houseboat, calling for Joshua Murphy, and at that time, looked over the edge of the railing where Joshua Murphy had been playing on the starboard side and saw him floating face down in the water between the houseboat and the raft.

Joshua Murphy was immediately pulled from the water and the adults began CPR. At approximately 8:40 p.m. on August 20, 2009, Gregory Johnson, an Officer of the National Park Service, was contacted at his residence to respond to a reported drowning of an eleven year old boy. At approximately 9:30 p.m., Ranger Martin and Ranger Johnson, along with a medical team from Rescue 74, arrived at the scene where the houseboat was tied to the shore, and observed family members performing CPR on Joshua Murphy. From there, Joshua Murphy was airlifted from the scene by Metro SAR Air 6 to the Echo Bay launch ramp, where he was transferred to Mercy Air 11 and transported to UMC Trauma Center. The officers determined that Joshua Murphy was floating on a raft tied to the houseboat near the aft starboard area, and that the generator for the houseboat was running at the time, and was located at the aft starboard corner of the vessel. The National Park Service report indicates that they received information from the Clark County Coroner's Office that Joshua Murphy died of carbon monoxide poisoning as the primary cause and drowning as the secondary cause. (See Exhibits 2 and 3). An autopsy report from the Clark County Coroner's Office was issued on August 21, 2009, and the National Park Service report was issued on August 29, 2009.

Prior to the issuance of the National Park Service report, counsel for Claimants sent his notice letters to Kenneth Harris, the Insurance Adjuster for Seven Crown Resorts. These two letters were sent via email on August 27, 2009. (See Exhibit 1).

On August 31, 2009, counsel for Claimants arranged a visit of their expert witness to view and analyze houseboat No. 224 for the purposes of establishing the source of the carbon monoxide and why the generator and its exhaust system permitted the accumulation of carbon monoxide gas at or near the aft portion of houseboat No. 224. Claimants' expert formalized his report contained in Exhibit 4. The report of Claimants' expert indicates that NIOSH studies were done in 2001, at Lake Mead and Echo Bay Marina, and the report was addressed to Mr. Bob Clark, Vice President, Seven Crown Resorts, Boulder City, Nevada. The April, 2001 report tested the generator on Summit Houseboat which exhausted over the starboard side of the houseboat. This is the same location as the exhaust in the houseboat No. 224. The Summit Houseboat had readings higher than the NIOSH recommendation of 1200 ppm.

The generator on houseboat No. 224 is not the original generator but a replacement installed sometime after February, 2008. Claimants' expert report indicates that carbon monoxide gas from the generator could have been removed by an exhaust stack terminating above the highest occupied deck on the houseboat as suggested by NIOSH studies. Claimants' expert concluded that by 2001, the carbon monoxide problem on this houseboat and others was well known to Plaintiff in Limitation and when Seven Crown decided to replace the generator, it was a simple and inexpensive repair to design the carbon monoxide problem out of the houseboat. From this, Claimants' expert opined that Seven Crown knew, or should have known, that a vertical stack arrangement on the houseboat was a viable, low cost, safer approach to generator exhaust, and the potential of carbon monoxide poisoning. From this,

Claimants' expert concluded that the actions and/or inactions of Seven Crown were the cause of the death of Joshua Murphy. (See Exhibit 4).

On March 10, 2010, Claimants obtained the Letters of Administration for the Estate of Joshua Murphy, deceased. (Exhibit 5). On March 18, 2010, Claimants filed their Complaint in Clark County, Nevada. (Exhibit 6).

2. Procedural History

On or about August 27, 2009, counsel for Claimants provided written notice to Seven Crown of their claim for the death of Joshua Murphy. (Exhibit 1). On July 13, 2010, Seven Crown filed its Limitation Complaint (Doc. No. 1) before this Court. On August 20, 2010, Seven Crown filed its Amended Complaint. (Doc. No. 8). On October 13 and 15, 2010, this Court issued its Orders regarding Notice of Claim for Exoneration and Restraining the Nevada state court suit. (Doc. No. 16 and 17). On November 12, 2010, Claimants filed their Answer to the Amended Complaint of Seven Crown and the Claims of Mary Jolynn Murphy, Michael Browning and Mary Jolynn Murphy as Special Administrator of the Estate of Joshua Murphy, deceased. (Docs. No. 18 and 19).

II. ARGUMENT

The Claimants are attacking Seven Crown's Limitation of Liability Act amended complaint, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1) and pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). Claimants assert that this Court does not have admiralty jurisdiction over this matter, and that the LOLA does not apply to the underlying incident in which Joshua Murphy died of carbon monoxide asphyxiation.

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1. Standard under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1).

Claimants' attack pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1) has two prongs: First, Seven Crown did not file its limitation proceeding within six months after it first received written notice of the claims from Claimants' attorney. An action filed by a shipowner seeking to limit its liability must be brought within six months after a claimant gives the owner written notice of a claim. 46 U.S.C. §§ 30511; *See also* Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, Rule F. The six month proscriptive period requires a shipowner to act promptly to gain the benefit of the right to limit liability and prevents the shipowner from waiting to file until the later stages of any claim. *See Exxon Shipping Company v. Cailleteau*, 869 F2d. 843, 846 (5th Cir. 1989).

The Claimants' also seek dismissal pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1), both facially and factually, because the Court does not have subject matter jurisdiction of the amended complaint because Seven Crown cannot establish the "connection" tests of admiralty jurisdiction. The tort in this case must occur at the time of the incident on navigable waters (location) and the wrong must bear a sufficient connection with maritime activity (connection). *Grubart, Inc. v. Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company*, 513 U.S. 527, 534 (1995); *Seven Resorts, Inc. v. Cantlen*, 57 F.3d 771, 773 (9th Cir. 1995).

In deciding a Rule 12(b)(1) motion to dismiss, based upon a "facial attack," this Court considers the allegations of the complaint as true. *Warren v. Fox Family Worldwide, Inc.*, 328 F.3d 1136, 1139 (9th Cir. 2003). However, this Court is permitted to look beyond the amended complaint at the documents provided by the Claimants, to decide the Rule 12(b)(1) issues of subject matter jurisdiction. *White v. Lee*, 227 F.3d 1214, 1242 (9th Cir. 2000). Once the Claimants have converted the motion to dismiss into a factual motion by presenting evidence properly brought before this Court, the party opposing the motion must furnish affidavits or

other evidence necessary to satisfy its burden of establishing subject matter jurisdiction. *Savage* v. *Glendale Union High School*, 343 F.3d 1036, 1039 n.2 (9th Cir. 2003). Where jurisdiction is intertwined with the merit, this Court is not compelled to assume as true the allegations in the limitation complaint when the facts are controverted by evidence from the Claimants. *Roberts* v. *Corrothers*, 812 F.2d 1173, 1177 (9th Cir. 1987).

In this case, the facts necessary to sustain jurisdiction and withstand the Rule 12(b)(1) motion, do not implicate the merits of Limitation Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint and therefore this Court may proceed under Rule 12(b)(1) to weight the evidence and satisfy itself as to the existence of its power to hear this case. *Williamson v. Tucker*, 645 F.2d 404, 412-13 (5th Cir. 1981). The existence of disputed material facts on a timeliness challenge under Rule 12(b)(1) do not preclude this Court from evaluating for itself the merits of the jurisdictional claims. *Williamson*, 645 F.2d at 413. The Claimants will argue more fully hereinbelow that Seven Crown was fully aware of the claims in this case for the wrongful death of Joshua Murphy, but waited over 6 months after first receiving notice of the claims

2. Standard under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6).

It is often stated that in considering a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), the allegations of the complaint must be construed in a light most favorable to the non-moving party. *Shwarz v. United States*, 234 F.3d 428, 435 (9th Cir. 2000). However, to avoid a Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) dismissal, "the pleading must contain something more...than...a statement of facts that merely creates a suspicion [of] a legally cognizable right of action." *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 555 U.S. 544, 555-56. A pleading that offers "labels and conclusions" or "a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009) (quoting *Twombly*, 555 U.S. at 555). Although a court's review on a 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss is generally "limited to the contents

of a complaint, "this Court may also consider documents without converting the motion into a motion for summary judgment. *See Durning v. First Boston Corp.*, 815 F.2d 1265, 1267 (9th Cir. 1987).

In *Iqbal*, the Supreme Court recently clarified the two-step approach district courts are to apply when considering motions to dismiss. First, the court must accept as true all well-pled factual allegations in the complaint; however, legal conclusions are not entitled to the assumption of truth. *Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. at 1950. Mere recitals of the elements of a cause of action or the statutory provisions, supported only by conclusory statements, do not suffice. Second, this Court must consider whether the factual allegations in the complaint allege enough facts to satisfy all of the elements of a claim. Where the complaint does not permit the court to infer more than the mere possibility, the complaint has alleged – but not shown- that the pleader is entitled to relief. *Iqbal*, Id. at 1949. When the claim in a complaint has not crossed the line from conceivable to plausible, the claim must be dismissed. *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570. In this case, as more fully argued hereinbelow, Seven Crown has only tracked the language of 46 U.S.C. §§ 30501 et seq. and has asserted conclusions to fit the statutory language. These Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) defects require this Court to dismiss the Amended Complaint of Seven Crown.

3. Seven Crown's Amended Complaint in Limitation Was Untimely and Therefore this Court is Without Subject Matter Jurisdiction.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has had an opportunity to examine the current status of the Limitation of Liability Act of 1851, Act of March 3, 1851, 9 Stat. 635 and its various amendments. *In re Esta Later Charters, Inc.*, 875 F.2d 234 (9th Cir. 1989) the court noted that shortly after the close of the middle ages, many European seafaring nations developed a rule of maritime law that limited a shipowner's liability to the value of the vessel and its cargo. *In re*

Esta Later Charters Inc., 875 F.2d at 234. The court examined the history of the Act and its notice amendment. In 1936, the Act added a six-month limitation period for filing a petition running from written notice of a claim. This six-month's notice is contained in 46 U.S.C. § 3511 and Rule F of the Supplementary Rules for Admiralty and Maritime Claims. The court stated that there was no good reason, in a close case, to construe the Act in favor of shipowners. The prior rational for doing so appeared to have been that this would have helped promote healthy merchant marine. However, recent events have cast doubt on the continued vitality of the object of the Act, and the court found it especially inappropriate because many of the conditions in the shipping industry that induced the 1851 Congress to pass the Act no longer prevail. In the present era, the use of corporations as the standard form of business, with numerous forms of insurance protection, courts no longer need to indulge the antiquated requirements of the Limitation of Liability Act.

With this in mind, most courts that have examined what would constitute sufficient written notice, support a finding that the letters from Claimants' attorney to the insurance adjuster for Seven Crown on August 27, 2009, provided the necessary notice and the Complaint in Limitation filed by Seven Crown on July 13, 2010, was therefore untimely.

For example, *In re Beesley's Point Sea-Doo, Inc.*, 956 F.Supp. 538 (D.N.J. 1997) the court examined letters sent by the former attorney of a claimant that was relied upon to demonstrate that a vessel owner had untimely sought exoneration or limitation of liability. The former attorney had written the owner stating that he represented one of the claimants in regard to the injuries the claimant sustained, and advised the shipowner to turn the letter over to its insurance company or attorney immediately. The vessel owner, argued that the letter was insufficient to serve as notice of a claim because it merely advised an incorrect entity of one claimant's representation. The court found that in such a situation it must look to "whole tenor"

of the letter when determining whether it constitutes notice. The court stated that a "letter from an attorney that informs a vessel owner of the attorney's representation of a person who was injured while operating that owner's vessel and advises the owner to contact its insurance company is sufficient to put the owner on notice of a potential claim." *Beesley's Point Sea-Doo, Inc.*, 956 F.Supp. at 540.

The court relied upon the decision in *Complaint of Bayview Charter Boats, Inc.*, 692 F.Supp. 1480, 1485-86 (E.D.N.Y. 1988) where it was found that a letter by attorneys informing a ferry owner of representation of a swimmer in connection with his personal injuries and requesting the owner to refer the letter to insurance and/or legal representation was sufficient "notice of claim" even though the letter did not contain a threat of legal proceedings. The court also examined other sources of notice from telephone contacts between the attorney and the various entities, the existence of a boating accident report, and investigation of the incident. In the case before this Court, counsel for the Murphy Claimants immediately contacted the operators at Seven Crown Resorts, and arranged for an examination of the houseboat and placed Seven Crown on notice that no destructive testing should occur prior to examination of the vessel by Plaintiff's expert.

It is simply unacceptable that Seven Crown attorneys and insurance carrier would wait until an action was commenced in the state court and then, again, wait additional months before, as an after thought, file the herein Complaint in Limitation on July 13, 2010. Seven Crown failed to file for limitation of liability in a timely fashion.

The *Beesley's Point Sea-Doo* case relied upon the decision in *Doxsee Sea Clam Co. v. Brown*, 13 F.3d 550 (2nd Cir. 1994) and *In re Complaint of McCarthy Brothers Co.*, 83 F.3d 821 (7th Cir. 1996). Both of these cases hold that a letter sent is sufficient to trigger the sixmonth period if (1) it informs the shipowner of an actual potential claim; (2) which may exceed

the value of the vessel (3) and is subject to limitation. The written notice of claim only need reveal a "reasonable possibility" that the claim made is one subject to limitation. *Doxsee Sea Clam Co.*, 13 F.3d at 554; *Complaint of McCarthy Brothers Co.*, 83 F.3d at 827.

Courts have also found it only necessary for a written notice to provide discussion of the occurrence, an intention to seek damages and letters are to be read using a "broad and flexible standard." *In re Wepfer Marine*, 344 F.Supp.2d 1120, 1128 (W.D. Tenn. 2004).

When the insurance adjuster for Seven Crown undertook its investigation in August, 2009, subject to the limitations and spoliation fears of counsel for Claimants, it was patently clear that the wrongful death of Joshua Murphy would be resolved by claims against Seven Crown, by virtue of the circumstances of Joshua Murphy's asphyxiation in proximity to houseboat No. 224. There simply is no question that the insurance company, its adjuster, and everyone at Seven Crown, understood that a policy-limit claim would be made by the family of Joshua Murphy for his tragic death.

On this basis alone, this Court should find that pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1). it does not have subject matter admiralty jurisdiction over this case for the failure on the part of Seven Crown to timely file its Complaint in Limitation.

4. Seven Crown has the Burden of Establishing Subject Matter Jurisdiction of Its Complaint for Relief Under the Limitation of Liability Act.

Both Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6) require Seven Crown to establish that this Court has admiralty jurisdiction. Seven Crown must furnish affidavits or other evidence necessary to satisfy its burden of establishing subject matter jurisdiction. *Savage v. Glendale Union High School*, 343 F.3d 1036, 1039 n. 2 (9th Cir. 2003). For this Court to have jurisdiction under the Act, Seven Crown has to establish both the "location" and "connection" test of admiralty jurisdiction. The torts must occur on navigable waters (location) and the

wrong must bear a sufficient connection with maritime activity (connection). *Grubart, Inc. v. Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co.*, 513 U.S. 527, 534 (1995); *Seven Resorts, Inc. v. Cantlen*, 57 F.3d 771, 773 (9th Cir. 1995). Before 1972 there was little question that the incident in this case would have fallen within admiralty jurisdiction because it extended to all torts involving vessels on navigable waters. *See Sisson v. Ruby*, 497 U.S. 358, 361 (1990). Ten years later, the U.S. Supreme Court stated unequivocally that an accident involving two pleasure boats colliding on a navigable river would include traditional maritime activity beyond commercial maritime activity. *Formost Insurance Co., v. Richardson*, 457 U.S. 666, 668 (1982). The Court found in *Formost* that admiralty jurisdiction existed because the pleasure boat collision had a "potentially disruptive impact" on maritime commerce. The court noted that "not every accident in navigable waters" that might disrupt maritime activity will support federal admiralty jurisdiction. *Formost*, 457 at 675 n. 5.

In *Executive Jet Aviation, Inc. v. Cleveland*, 409 U.S. 249 (1972) the sinking of a plane in navigable waters did not give rise to a claim in admiralty even though an aircraft sinking in the water could create a hazard for the navigation of commercial vessels in the vicinity. In *Sisson v. Ruby*, 497 U.S. 358 (1990), and *Jerome B. Grubart, Inc. v. The Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company*, 513 U.S. 527 (1995), the Supreme Court established and honed a two-pronged test to determine if admiralty jurisdiction extends to tort claims occurring on navigable waters. Today, in order to invoke federal admiralty jurisdiction over a tort claim, Seven Crown must satisfy both the location and connection tests with respect to maritime activity. At this juncture, Claimants will not challenge the satisfaction of the location test. But we will fully examine the connection test.

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5. Seven Crown has not Pled and Cannot Show a Substantial Connection of the Incident to Maritime Activity.

The connection test has two prongs. First, this Court must assess the "general features of the type of incident involved" in order to determine whether the incident has a potentially disruptive impact on maritime commerce. *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 534 (quoting *Sisson*, 497 U.S. at 363, 364 n. 2). In determining whether this requirement has been met, the Court must consider the incident giving rise to the claim at an 'intermediate level of generality." *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 538. Second, the Court must determine whether the "character of the activity giving rise to the incident shows a substantial relationship to traditional maritime activity." *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 534.

a. The General Nature of the Incident Does not Have a Potentiality of Disruptive Impact on Maritime Commerce.

In *Sisson*, the Supreme Court held that there was admiralty jurisdiction over a case in which a fire broke out in a washer-dryer area of a pleasure yacht. The yacht was docked at a recreational marina on Lake Michigan. *Sisson*, 497 U.S. at 360. The fire spread and damaged several neighboring boats in the marina. No commercial vessels were damaged because none were docked at the marina and no commercial vessels were ever likely to be docked at such a recreational marina. A characterization of the general features of the incident resulted in the following: "a fire on a vessel docked at a marina on navigable waters." *Sisson*, 497 U.S. at 363. The court concluded that certainly such a fire has a potentially disruptive impact on maritime commerce, as it can spread to nearby commercial vessels or make the marina inaccessible to such vessels.

In *Grubart*, the Supreme Court refined this position and stated that the potential effects inquiry turns on a "description of the incident at an intermediate level of possible generality." *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 538. The court held that to characterize the incident in *Sisson* as a "fire"

would have been too general to differentiate cases. At the other extreme, to have described the fire as damaging nothing but pleasure boats and their tie up facilities would have ignored, the capacity of pleasure boats to endanger commercial shipping that happened to be nearby. The court in *Grubart* held that the focus of the potential effects inquiry is not on the specific facts at hand, but on whether the general features of the incident were likely to disrupt commercial activity.

The Ninth Circuit has had an opportunity to consider facts parallel to those before this Court under the above standard. In *H20 Houseboat Vacations v. Hernandez*, 103 F.3d 914 (9th Cir. 1996) the court held that admiralty jurisdiction was lacking in a case in which family members were injured by carbon monoxide while they slept aboard a houseboat that was tied to the shore of Lake Havasu. The court held that, unlike a fire on a boat, carbon monoxide fumes would not be dangerous if they escaped and concluded that the facts were far different from those in *Sisson* in which the fire had the potential to spread to other vessels and the marina. The court acknowledged that it was possible to speculate that the houseboat would have posed a hazard to maritime commerce if it had slipped its tie to shore and drifted onto the lake, or if the passenger had been overcome with carbon monoxide fume and lost consciousness while navigating, but such speculation would require it to ignore the actual incident that caused the injury. *H20 Houseboat Vacations*, 103 F.3d at 916-17. The Ninth Circuit characterized the general features of the incident as follows: "The emissions of carbon monoxide fumes encapsuled within the houseboat tied to shore." *Id.* at 917.

In this case, the description of the incident at the intermediate level of generality is: emission of carbon monoxide fumes near the rear of a vessel anchored to the shore of a navigable lake. The general features of the case before this Court are parallel to those in *H20 Houseboats*. With the electrical generator of Seven Crown pumping carbon monoxide gas out

and around the edge of the houseboat in close proximity to swimmers, the general features of this case do not have the potential to disrupt maritime activity. The boat was not being used in any traditional commercial activity and therefore there was no connection from generality with any historic admiralty interest. It is too speculative to assert that any rescue attempt to the houseboat had the potential to impede commercial maritime traffic. Just because the houseboat was rented as a commercial enterprise, does not translate into a traditional maritime activity that would disrupt or impede traffic on Lake Havasu. Seven Crown has failed to plead any facts, much less sufficient facts, to establish the necessary connection of the incident. Seven Crown has only pled legal conclusions and therefore has failed to establish the necessary connection of the incident with maritime activity and thus the Amended Complaint is defective and Seven Crown has not established admiralty jurisdiction.

b. The Activity Giving Rise to the Incident Does Not Have a Substantial Relationship to Traditional Maritime Activity.

The second part of the connection test is that Seven Crown must show a substantial relationship between the general character of the activity giving rise to the incident and traditional maritime activity. *Sisson*, 497 U.S. at 367. It has been recognized that a tortfeasor's activity on navigable waters must be "so closely related to activity traditionally subject to admiralty law that the reasons for applying special admiralty rules would apply in this suit. *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 539-40. In this case, the characterization of the general nature of the Seven Crown's activity, providing a generator and a defective exhaust system that injures a swimmer, has no relationship to traditional maritime activity. In *Grubart*, *Inc.* the court held that injury to a swimmer from diving into shallow but navigable waters did not meet the test. *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 543. Further, in *Delta Country Ventures*, *Inc. v. Magana*, 986 F.2d 1260 (9th Cir. 1993), the owner of a houseboat filed a petition under the Act to limit his liability

for injuries suffered by a youth who dove from the boat into shallow water. Rejecting the owner's characterization of the activity, as not reasonable and not making common sense, the court affirmed dismissal of the petition for the lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The court concluded that *Delta* has not shown a substantial relationship between aquatic recreation off a pleasure boat and traditional maritime activity. *Delta Country Ventures, Inc.*, 986 F.2d at 1263. Likewise, in *Crosson v. Vance*, 484 F.2d 840 (4th Cir. 1973), it was held that admiralty jurisdiction did not reach a claim for personal injuries by a water skier against the operator of a towboat that towed the skier into too shallow water, because the activity had insufficient connection to traditional maritime activity.

The speculation raised by Seven Crown in its Amended Complaint, does not satisfy the second prong. The second prong of the connection test is not easily met in this case because the negligent activity of Seven Crown occurred when it did not remedy the generator/carbon monoxide problem on houseboat No. 224. That neglect does not substantially relate to traditional maritime activity, even when given the broad perspective demanded by the second prong of the connection test. Since Seven Crown cannot establish the second connection prong, the Court does not have admiralty jurisdiction.

6. The Complaint in Limitation Must be Dismissed Because the Allegations of the Claimants Demonstrate Privity or Knowledge of Seven Crown.

The Act affords relief from liability arising only from any act done, without the privity or knowledge of the owner. 46 U.S.C. §§ 30305(b). Privity means some knowledge or personal participation of the owner in the fault or negligence which caused or contributed to the injury. *Joyce v. Joyce*, 975 F.2d 379, 384 (7th Cir. 1992). Knowledge includes not only actual but constructive knowledge, i.e. the Act was not intended to shield ship owners from liability for the choice of incompetent personnel, at least when the owner participates fully in the choice.

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A complaint under the LOLA must be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction when the causes of action pled in the state court action from which relief is sought, require conduct by the owner with "privity or knowledge" under the Act. All that is needed to deny limitation is that the ship owner, by prior action or inaction, sets into motion a chain of circumstances that may be a contributing cause, even though not the immediate or proximate cause of the casualty. *In re Oil Spill by the Amoco Cadiz*, 954 F.2d 1279, 1303 (7th Cir. 1992) (Quoting *Tug Ocean Prince, Inc. v. United States*, 584 F.2d 1151, 1158 (2nd Cir. 1978). Seven Crown bears the burden of proving that it lacked privity or knowledge. *See the Amoco Cadiz*, 954 F.2d at 1303.

In a typical situation, this Court should follow a two step procedure for determining whether the vessel owner, i.e. Seven Crown, is entitled to limit its liability because of no privity or knowledge. The Court determines what acts of negligence or conditions caused the accident. It is undisputed that the cause of Joshua Murphy's death was carbon monoxide poisoning, the source of which was the venting of the exhaust of the generator in too close proximity to swimmers in the water around the houseboat. Second, the Court determines whether Seven Crown had knowledge or privity of those same acts of negligence or conditions. Hercules Carriers, Inc. v. Claimant State of Florida, Department of Transportation, 768 F.2d 1558, 1563-64 (11th Cir. 1985). There has been no evidence brought forth by Seven Crown that anyone other than it and its employees and agents performed work on houseboat No. 224, and made the decision not to put in a proper exhaust system when they had specific knowledge that it presented a danger as configured. In Joyce, supra, the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit held that "privity and knowledge" are deemed to exist where the owner has the means of knowledge or, where knowledge would have been obtained from "reasonable inspection" and the negligent failure to discover constitutes privity and knowledge within the meaning of the (Act). Joyce, 975 F.2d at 384. Moreover, courts have also noted that the recent trend has been

1 to enlarge the scope of activities within the privity or knowledge of a ship owner, including 2 requiring ship owners to exercise an increasing degree of supervision and inspection. The 3 Amoco Cadiz, 954 F.2d at 1303. In this case, the technical report of Claimants' experts found 4 multiple acts of negligence, some amounting to gross negligence, for the failure of Seven 5 Crown to reconfigure the generator and exhaust when it had an opportunity to do so. On this 6 7 basis alone, privity and knowledge has been shown, and Seven Crown has not overcome it 8 sufficiently for protection under the Act. Reasonable diligence, over a long period of time, 9 would have uncovered the dangers presented by the generator and its exhaust system to 10 swimmers off the back of houseboat No. 224. Reasonable diligence would have included 11 inspecting and testing the generator system while it was running, in a situation similar to those 12 13 during use by the Murphy family. Because Seven Crown has not met its burden for showing 14 that it lacked privity or knowledge, this Court cannot limit its liability under the Act. A review 15

> III. CONCLUSION

Crown has not pled any facts to establish the connection of the incident with traditional

maritime activity. The general features of the incident do not have a potentially disruptive

effect on commerce, and the general nature of the activity giving rise to the incident, i.e. the

configuration of the generator and its exhaust, does not have a substantial relationship with

traditional maritime activity. This Court cannot grant any relief to Seven Crown because the

state court action from which relief is sought pleads causes of action requiring conduct by

Seven Crown has not properly pled and cannot establish admiralty jurisdiction. Seven

proven, that would necessarily be within Seven Crown's privity or knowledge.

of the complaint of the Claimants in Nevada state court, conclusively demonstrates conduct, if

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Seven Crown amounting to privity or knowledge under the Limitation of Liability Act.

Case 2:10-cv-01149-PMP-LRL Document 20 Filed 11/17/10 Page 20 of 83

Finally, the Limitation of Liability Act, interpreted according to its purposes, does not reach the circumstances of this case. For all of these reasons, this Court should dismiss the herein action of Seven Crown. DATED this 17th day of November, 2010. By: <u>/s/ Sam Harding</u> Sam Harding, Esq. suecash@live.com Dennis M. Prince, Esq.

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Nevada Bar No. 1877 1100 East Bridger Ave. Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 333-7777 Facsimile: (702) 384-5731

Nevada Bar No. 5092 PRINCE & KEATING 3230 S. Buffalo Dr., Ste. 108 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Telephone: (702) 228-6800 Facsimile: (702) 228-0443 DPrince@PrinceKeating.com **Attorneys for Claimants**

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was forwarded by 3 4 electronic means through the Court's ECF System to all counsel of record, as follows: 5 Chad R. Fears, Esq. Snell & Wilmer, LLP 6 3883 Howard Hughes Pkwy 7 Las Vegas, NV 86169 cfears@swlaw.com 8 Craig Logsdon, Esq. Snell & Wilmer, LLP 10 400 E. Van Buren St. Phoenix, AZ 85004 11 clogsdon@swlaw.com 12 Patrick X. Fowler, Esq. 13 Snell & Wilmer, LLP 400 E. Van Buren St. 14 Phoenix, AZ 85004 pfowler@swlaw.com 15 16 Alex B. Marconi, Esq. 400 E. Van Buren St. 17 Phoenix, AZ 85004 18 amarconi@swlaw.com (Pro Hac Vice) 19 Attorneys for Limitation Plaintiff 20 Dennis M. Prince, Esq. 21 Prince & Keating 3230 S. Buffalo Dr., Ste. 108 22 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 DPrince@PrinceKeating.com 23 Attorney for Claimants 24 25 By: /s/ Sam Harding Sam Harding, Esq. 26 27 28

1 SAM HARDING LAW FIRM SAM HARDING, ESQ. 2 Nevada Bar No. 1877 1100 East Bridger Avenue 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 333-7777 Facsimile: (702) 384-5731 5 **Attorney for Claimants** 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 DISTRICT OF NEVADA 9 In re SEVEN RESORTS, INC. a Nevada) 10 corporation, d/b/a SEVEN CROWN 2:10-cv-01149-PMP-LRL) RESORTS, as owner of a certain 1986) 11 houseboat manufactured by Master In Admiralty Fabricators; Summit Model; Echo Bay rental 12 No. 224, for exoneration from or limitation **DECLARATION OF COUNSEL IN** 13 of liability, **SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS** Plaintiff. 14 15 16 I, Samuel A. Harding, declare: 17 1. That I am counsel and attorney of record for Claimants/Real Parties in Interest, Mary Jolynn 18 Murphy, individually, and as Special Administrator of the Estate of Joshua Murphy, deceased, 19 and Michael Browning. 20 21 2. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated below and if called to testify I would so state. 22 3. Exhibit 1 consists of true and correct copies of two letters dated August 27, 2009 directed to 23 Mr. Ken Harris, Adjustor for Seven Crown Resorts, from Samuel A. Harding, Esq., giving 24 notice to Seven Crown of the claims for the death of Joshua Murphy and other matters relating 25 to the extent of the claim and insurance coverage for the incident. 26 27 4. Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of the Coroner Autopsy Report, Clark County, Nevada, 28 Case No. 09-06671 pertaining to the examination of the body of Joshua Murphy, deceased.

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was forwarded by 3 electronic means through the Court's ECF System to all counsel of record, as follows: 4 Chad R. Fears, Esq. 5 Snell & Wilmer, LLP 3883 Howard Hughes Pkwy 6 Las Vegas, NV 86169 7 cfears@swlaw.com 8 Craig Logsdon, Esq. Snell & Wilmer, LLP 400 E. Van Buren St. 10 Phoenix, AZ 85004 clogsdon@swlaw.com 11 Patrick X. Fowler, Esq. 12 Snell & Wilmer, LLP 13 400 E. Van Buren St. Phoenix, AZ 85004 14 pfowler@swlaw.com 15 Alex B. Marconi, Esq. 16 400 E. Van Buren St. Phoenix, AZ 85004 17 amarconi@swlaw.com 18 (Pro Hac Vice) 19 By: /s/ Sam Harding Sam Harding, Esq. 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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EXHIBIT 1

SAM HARDING LAW FIRM

SAM HARDING ESO

1100 E Bridger Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 www TheGoodGuy com

Phone (702) 384 8023 Fax (702) 541 9811

August 27, 2009

VIA E-MAI (ken@arnoldoffice com)

Mr Ken Harris Adjustor for Seven Crown Resorts

Re Our Client

Joshua Murphy

Our File No Date of Loss

208740

8/20/2009

Dear Mr Harris

It was a pleasure speaking with you on the phone on this date

As you are aware my office has been retained to represent the family of Joshua Murphy regarding his death which occurred on August 20 2009

It is my understanding that you are the adjustor for Seven Crown Resorts who rented the houseboat to Mr Michael Browning Mr Browning rented a Summit Houseboat (confirmation # E86K1) from Seven Crown Resorts It is our present understanding that Mr Browning's son died on August 20, 2009 as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning most likely from the generator

You have represented that the involved Summit Houseboat is secured and being maintained in the condition which it was in when it was received from the Coast Guard who initially had custody of the boat following the incident on August 20, 2009 I would request that the boat be maintained in a secure environment in the condition it was in when received from the Coast Guard and that there be no destructive testing done until such time as we can both have our experts present

You have advised me that "Tiger Team" will be coming to inspect the boat this coming Monday at noon August 31 2009 Unfortunately, I will most likely not have sufficient time to arrange for experts on behalf of the family to be there that quickly. It is my understanding from you that no destructive testing will be done on the Houseboat at the time of this examination.

As you are aware I have requested that you advise me as to the liability policy limits of Seven Crown Resorts including both primary and excess coverages

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter

Very truly yours,

Samuel A Harding, Esc

NG)LAW FIRM

SAH/lc

SAM HARDING LAW FIRM

SAM HARDING ESQ

1100 E Bridger Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 www IheGoodGuy com

Phone (702) 384 8023 Fax (702) 541 9811

August 27, 2009

VIA E-MAI (ken@arnoldoffice com)

Mr Ken Harris Adjustor for Seven Crown Resorts

Re Our Client

Joshua Murphy

Our File No Date of Loss 208740 8/20/2009

Dear Mr Harris

It is my understanding that the "Tiger Team Report Inspection is this coming Monday August 31, 2009, at noon, at Seven Crown Resorts Unfortunately, neither I nor my experts will be able to attend this inspection on such short notice

However, I plan on having two representatives come for the purposes of taking pictures and videos of the boat and the inspection which takes place on that date. Please advise if you have any objection to this. The two individuals who will be appearing are Ms. Stacey Cash and Ms. LeAnn Carter

Ms Cash or Ms Carter will call you relative to further directions to the location of the houseboat

Yery truly yours,

Samuel A Harding, Esq.

IG LAW ΓΙRΜ

SAH/lc

EXHIBIT 2

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AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: 09-06671

August 21, 2009

AUTOPSY REPORT

PATHOLOGIC EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

JOSHUA MURPHY

FINAL PATHOLOGIC FINDINGS

- I. Carbon monoxide poisoning, carbon monoxide level 44.2%.
- II. Drowning.
 - A. Was on a raft near a houseboat generator.
 - B. Found deceased in the water.
 - C. Frothy, blood-tinged purge within the oropharynx.

OPINION

CAUSE OF DEATH: It is my opinion that this 11-year-old Caucasian male, Joshua Murphy, died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Other significant conditions include drowning.

MANNER OF DEATH: ACCIDENT.

Alane M. Olson, M.D.

Pathologist

AO/jtk/amu

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AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: 09-06671

August 21, 2009

POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

Joshua Murphy

The examination commences at 1015 hours on 21 August 2009.

IDENTIFICATION

At the time of autopsy, the body is identified by a Clark County Coroner/Medical Examiner "toe tag" inscribed with case #09-6671 and the name Murphy, Joshua. Additional identification consists of a hospital band on the left wrist bearing account number 0006814419 John Doe.

CLOTHING

At the time of autopsy, the body is lying upon the cut remnants of a pair of floral print swim trunks.

GENERAL EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of a normally developed, teenage Caucasian male measuring 60 inches in length and weighing 90 pounds. The general appearance is roughly consistent with the chronological age of 11 years. The body is in full rigor and cool following refrigeration. Lividity is posterior, bright pink, and blanching to pressure. The state of preservation is good in this unembalmed body.

HEAD: The scalp is covered with straight ash brown hair measuring to no more than approximately 10 cm in length, with some admixed fine silt or sand. The head is normocephalic and atraumatic. EARS: The ears are normally formed and set, the external auditory canals are clear, and the lobes are free of cosmetic perforations. EYES: The irides are brown, and the pupils are round and equal. The sclerae and conjunctivae are free of icterus and petechiae. NOSE: The nasal bridge and septum are midline and intact, and blood-tinged purge is present within the nares. FACE: The face is unremarkable. MOUTH: The

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AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: 09-06671

PAGE TWO

lips and oral mucosa are free of discernible acute injuries. There is frothy blood-tinged purge present within the oral cavity. The dental arches contain natural teeth in good repair. In the central mouth is the cut remnant of an endotracheal tube. The visible portion of the tongue is free of injuries. NECK: The larynx and trachea are midline and intact to palpation, and the neck is free of discernible acute injuries.

CHEST AND BACK: The chest and back are normally formed, bilaterally symmetric, and have a normal anteroposterior diameter. ABDOMEN: The abdomen is scaphoid, firm, and free of discernible organomegaly. GENITALIA: The external genitalia are those of a circumcised adolescent male with bilaterally descended testes. The genital hair pattern is appropriate for age and sex. ANUS AND PERINEUM: The anus and perineum are unremarkable aside from smeared fecal matter.

EXTREMITIES: The upper extremities are normally formed, bilaterally symmetric, and remarkable for described changes. No digits are missing. The fingernails are short, natural, and generally clean. The lower extremities are normally formed, bilaterally symmetric, and remarkable for described changes.

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL/SURGICAL INTERVENTION

EKG and pacing patches are present on the body surfaces. There is a rigid cervical collar present in the body bag with the body. An intraosseous catheter is present on the right lower leg. A pulse oximeter sensor is present on the right great toe.

IDENTIFYING MARKS, SCARS AND TATTOOS

None.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

On the dorsal lateral left hand is a vertical parchment-like dried superficial abrasion which is 6 mm in length. Two

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Joshua Murphy (deceased) 16.1 Production 000003



AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: 09-06671

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PAGE THREE

punctate superficial abrasions are present on the dorsal aspect of the right hand and middle finger. Superficial abrasions (two) are present on the right knee, linear, and measuring to no more than 1 cm in maximum individual dimension. About the left ankle are two superficial abrasions, varying from 5 mm to 2 cm in length. On the mid anterolateral left lower leg is a vertical scratch like superficial abrasion, approximately 4 cm in length. On the dorsal left foot and toes are two scattered superficial abrasions, varying from punctate to 6 mm in maximum On the upper chest are areas of superficial abrasion dimension. discoloration in the skin, presumably incident resuscitative efforts. On the distal left flank, overlying the left anterior-superior iliac crest is a superficial ovoid abrasion which is 2.5 cm in maximum dimension. On the central mid back is an irregular superficial abrasion, measuring to no more than 1 cm in length.

GENERAL INTERNAL EXAMINATION

PRIMARY INCISIONS: The body is opened with thoracoabdominal and intermastoid incisions. The thoracic musculature is red-brown and not hemorrhagic. The abdominal panniculus is uniform and yellow, and the subcutaneous fat layer of the anterior abdominal wall is 2.0 cm thick.

BODY CAVITIES: The organs of the thoracic and abdominal cavities are in their usual locations, and bear normal anatomic relationships to each other. The pericardial, pleural, and peritoneal cavities are free of adhesions and effusions. No organs are surgically absent.

<u>MEDIASTINUM</u>: The mediastinum is not enlarged or hemorrhagic, and there is no lymphadenopathy.

HEART AND GREAT VESSELS: The 240 gram heart has a normal size and shape. The epicardium is smooth and translucent, and the subepicardial fat is normally disposed. The coronary arteries arise and course normally in a right dominant fashion, and the

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AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: 09-06671

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PAGE FOUR

lumina are free of atherosclerosis and thromboses. The atria are not enlarged or dilated. The fossa ovalis is closed. cardiac valves have the usual number of cusps, which are unremarkable. The ventricles are neither thickened nor dilated, and the ventricular myocardium is firm and red-brown throughout, evidence of infarct orinfiltrates. interventricular septum is intact and not asymmetrically thickened. The endocardium is smooth, translucent, and free of The aorta and its major branches arise and mural thrombi. course normally, and are free of atherosclerotic plaque. systemic veins are unremarkable.

LUNGS: The right lung weighs 460 grams and the left lung weighs 430 grams. The pleural surfaces are smooth, translucent and free of adhesions, with indiscernible subpleural anthracotic pigment deposition. The parenchyma is generally well aerated throughout, and serial sectioning reveals a patchy congestion pattern throughout both lungs. The pale tan bronchi are free of occlusive secretions and mural lesions. The pulmonary arteries are unremarkable. The hilar lymph nodes are not enlarged, and have anthracotic cut surfaces.

HEPATOBILIARY: The 1060 gram liver has a smooth, translucent, intact capsule covering firm, purple parenchyma which is free of fibrosis, cholestasis, and tumor. The biliary tract is not dilated, and the portal and hepatic veins are patent. The gallbladder contains approximately 5 cc of viscid green bile which is devoid of concretions. The mucosa is velvety and unremarkable. The cystic and common bile ducts are unremarkable.

GASTROINTESTINAL: The esophagus is of uniform caliber, and is lined by smooth, tan mucosa. The gastroesophageal junction is unremarkable. The stomach is lined by smooth, tan mucosa having the usual rugal folds, and contains approximately 20 cc of opaque tan fluid with suspended white fragments (unidentifiable). The mucosa is devoid of masses and lesions.

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Joshua Murphy (deceased) 16.1 Production 000005



AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: 09-06671

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PAGE FIVE

The small and large bowel are unremarkable. The appendix is present and unremarkable.

GENITOURINARY: The kidneys weigh 100 grams each. The capsules are smooth and translucent, and strip with ease from the underlying firm, red-brown cortical surfaces. The cortices are well demarcated from the striated pyramids. The papillae are not blunted, and the renal pelves and ureters are unremarkable. The urinary bladder contains approximately 50 cc of clear, yellow urine.

ENDOCRINE: The adrenal glands have uniform, yellow cortices, averaging less than 0.2 cm thick. The gray medullae are intact. The pink-tan pancreas has the usual lobular architecture, and is free of fibrosis, fat necrosis, cysts, tumors, and hemorrhage. The red-brown thyroid has a normal size and shape, and the parenchyma is unremarkable.

RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM: The 190 gram spleen has a smooth, translucent, intact capsule covering firm, purple parenchyma which has the usual white pulp architecture. The aortic, cervical, and mesenteric lymph nodes are not enlarged.

HEAD: The reflected scalp is not hemorrhagic. The calvarium and base of the skull are intact. The dura mater and falx cerebri are intact, and there is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage. The cranial nerves are intact. The vessels of the circle of Willis arise and course normally, and are unremarkable. pattern of cerebral gyri and sulci is normal, though there is moderate cerebral edema, with widening of the gyri and narrowing Subarachnoid hemorrhage is absent, and the of the sulci. leptomeninges are thin and translucent. The 1430 gram brain is symmetric, and serial sections of the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brainstem are intact, with normal architecture. There are no masses or healed infarcts. The ventricles are neither dilated The pineal hemorrhagic. and pituitary glands unremarkable.

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AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: 09-06671

PAGE SIX

<u>SPINAL CORD</u>: The cervical spine is stable to manipulation. The cervical spinal cord, as viewed from the cranial cavity, is unremarkable. Internal examination of the entire length of the vertebral column fails to reveal evidence of acute injury.

<u>NECK</u>: The soft tissues of the neck, including the skeletal musculature of the tongue, are not hemorrhagic. The hyoid bone is intact and well ossified. The larynx and trachea are widely patent and free of aspirated foreign body material.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: The bony framework and soft tissues are unremarkable.

SPECIMENS: Routine stock tissue. Blood, urine, and vitreous are retained for toxicology. A DNA blood spot card is made during the course of the autopsy.

EVIDENCE: None.

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Clark County Coroner/Medical Examiner 1704 Pinto Lane Las Vegas, NV 89106 (702) 455-3210



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Coroner Case

	NAME OF DECEASED (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE)						KA	_			CA	SE NUMBER		
DECEDENT CALL INFO	Murphy, Joshua										n	9-06671		
	INVESTIGATOR	REPORTED BY			REPO	REPORTING AGENCY					REFERENCE NUMBER 5			
	Lara D. Davies	\Re	Rachel Neubauer, RN			Uni	University Medical Center					002233026		
	CALL DATE AND TIME		DISPATCH DATE AND TIME				ARRIVAL DATE AND TIME				RETURN DATE AND TIME			
	8/20/2009 11:30:00	8/21/2009	8/21/2009 2:20:00 AM			8/21/2009 2:25:00 AM				8/21/2009 2:50:00 AM				
	DATE AND TIME OF DEATH					GENDER		RACE		VET?	2.50	00 71141		
	8/20/2009 11:20:00 PM		11 Yrs	ΙM	Male		Caucasian							
	RESIDENT COUNTY		TELEPHONE N	D/	DATE OF BIRTH									
	Deer Lodge		(999) 999-9999		4/	4/25/1998								
			<u> </u>			CUPATION		EMPLOYER						
	516-33-2356													
	MARITAL STATUS			T WEIGHT		Ī		OLOR			HAIR COLOR			
	Single	60	60		90		Brown			Brown				
	CLOTHING					SCARS/TATTOOS/MARKS								
	blue & white shorts		•			1 //								
							''							
DEATH	LOCATION OF DEATH										AT RESIDENCE			
	University Medical Center Pediatrics ER													
	ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)						COUNTY							
	1800 W. Charleston Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89102						Clark							
<u> </u>	PRONOUNCED BY AGENCY													
	Dr. Burnette University Medical Center													
INCIDENT	LOCATION OF INCIDENT AT WORK													
	Pump House Cove ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) COUNTY													
	36°17.9856N x 114°24.2664 Las Vegas, NV DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT INVESTIGATING AGENCY					v T oë					FICERS			
	8/20/2009 8:37:00 PM National Park Servi													
	8/20/2009 8:37:00 PM			RELATIONSHI							Agent Johnson, Agent Raynold			
NOTIFICATION	Jodie Murphy		Mother				(90			99) 999-9999				
	NOTIFIED BY		METHOD				-			DATE AND TIME				
	Michael Browning				Telephone									
	NAME OF PERSON NOTIFIED					TIONSH					TELEPHONE NO.			
	Jodie Murphy				Mot	her					(999) 999-9999			
	IDENTIFIED BY					1	METHOD			DATE AND TIME				
	Michael Browning						Viewir	Viewing			8/21/2009 2:25:00 AM		0 AM	
	TRANSPORTED TO MORGUE BY						TRANSPORTED TO MORTUARY BY							
DISP														
	Desert Memorial Cremation & Burial						Desert Memorial Cremation & Burial							
	FUNERAL TUME						Yes No							
	TYPE OF EXAM EXAM BY							103		10				
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	Autopsy Alane Olson, M.D.													
AA										rd Motorized Wheelchair				
3	VEHICLE									ICENSE NUMBER STATE				
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VEHICULAR	OCCURRED ON PRIVATE PE	DECEDENT WE	ECEDENT WEARING SEATBELT?			SEAT POSITION			DECEDENT WEARING CRASH HELMET?					
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Clark County Coroner 1704 Pinto Lane Las Vegas, NV 89106 (702) 455-3210

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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 09-06671

DECEDENT NAME: Joshua Murphy

DATE OF BIRTH: 4/25/1998

ALSO KNOWN AS:

LOCATION OF DEATH: University Medical Center Pediatrics ER

SSN: 516-33-2356

AGE:

DATE OF DEATH: 08/20/2009

TIME OF DEATH: 11:20PM

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

Reason for Coroner Jurisdiction:

National Park Service (NPS) - Apparent Drowning

Circumstances of Death:

On 08/20/09, at approximately 2020 hours the decedent was floating on a raft next to the houseboat near the running generator on the back of the boat in Pump House Cove at Lake Mead. His father was cooking dinner and yelled out to the decedent to tell him that dinner would be ready in a few minutes. The father turned around and when he looked back he did not see the decedent. The father and other family members looked inside the houseboat for the decedent but could not locate him. Approximately 5 minutes later the father saw the decedent in the water next to the boat face down. The father pulled the decedent onto the boat and initiated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). 911 was called at approximately 2037 hours. Overton Rescue responded and moved the decedent from the boat to Echo Bay where the decedent was then airlifted to University Medical Center ER (UMC) arriving at approx. 2317 hours. Medical intervention was met with negative results and death was pronounced by Dr. Burnette at 2320 hours on 08/20/09.

Medical History:

Med Hx: Per the father the decedent was very healthy and has not complained of feeling ill.

Scene:

Death Scene: University Medical Center Pediatrics ER, Room 11 located at 1800 W. Charleston Blvd. in Las Vegas Nevada.

Incident Scene: Pump House Cove at Lake Mead. GPS coordinates 36°17.9856N x 114°24.2664

Body:

I viewed a Caucasian male lying supine on a standard hospital bed. He was covered with 2 white blankets and was clad in blue and white shorts. I noted an intubation tube in the decedent's mouth and a c-collar around his neck. There was a dried brown substance covering the decedent's face. I noted defibrillator and tracer pads on the decedent. There was a white plastic blood pressure cuff around his right upper arm. There was a white medical bracelet around the decedent's left wrist. There was a clear tube inserted into his right lower leg. The decedent's skin was cool to the touch. Lividity appeared to be blanching posterior and rigor mortis was present.

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> > Signature:

1 of 3

Clark County Coroner 1704 Pinto Lane Las Vegas, NV 89106 (702) 455-3210



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 09-06671

The decedent was removed and transported to the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (CCOCME) by Desert Memorial per rotation.

Property:

Property Receipt # 98829 shows that no property was taken.

Forensic Issues and Reasons for Seal:

- Call NPS Officer Chris Raynolds for autopsy
- A&N Keagly differed interest in this case.
- UMC Medical Records obtained
- · CPS form faxed
- Decedent was floating on a raft next to the running generator on the back of the boat.
- Decedent was reportedly a very good swimmer
- No admit blood or x-rays taken

Witnesses and Information Sources:

NPS Agent G. Johnson NPS Agent C. Raynolds Rachel Neubauer, RN Michael Browning, father Tina Browning, stepmother

Narrative:

Today, 08/20/09 at approximately 2330 hours I received a call of an apparent death occurring at UMC Pediatrics ER. The call was reported by Rachel Neubauer, RN with UMC. At this time Rachel Neubauer, RN had no information regarding this case and the decedent was a John Doe. I called NPS and they were still in the process of interviewing the family members and advised me they would call me back with the information regarding this case. I spoke with CCOCME Supervisor Archer who advised that I should wait until I had full details before responding to the hospital and that I should wait until the family arrived at UMC. I then telephoned Abuse and Neglect and spoke to Cheryl Keagley who differed interest in this case as the incident occurred in NPS jurisdiction.

At approximately 0100 hours I received a call from NPS Agent Johnson who advised this was NPS case number 092562. He provided me with the circumstances noted above. Agent Johnson stated that the family was now enroute to the hospital. I then telephoned Rachel Neubauer, RN and advised her that the family was on their way, she advised she would telephone the CCOCME when they had arrived so that this investigator could respond.

Upon, my arrival, at approximately 0225 hours I was met by Rachel Neubauer, RN who advised that the decedent's family was in the room with the decedent. I then spoke to Michael and Tina Browning who confirmed the above listed circumstances and provided me with the medical history noted above. Mr. Browning

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Signature:

ara D. Davies, Coroner Investigator

2 of 3

Clark County Coroner 1704 Pinto Lane Las Vegas, NV 89106 (702) 455-3210



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: .09-06671

could not provide me with the decedent's mother's phone number at this time as it was in his cell phone but he asked that he be the one to notify her of their son's demise. I provided Mr. Browning with all necessary information regarding this case and returned to the CCOCME at 0250 hours on 08/21/09.

Special Requests:

None

.

Tissue/Organ Donation:

Nevada Donor Network (NDN) protocol followed. DMS

Dissemination is restricted. Secondary dissemination of this document is prohibited.

Signature:

Lara D. Davies, Coroner Investigator



4230 Burnham A\ Las Vegas, Nevada 891 (702) 733-78

PATIENT AGE/SEX COLLECTED RECEIVED	11Y 08/21/20	09-6671, JO M 009 10:10 009 08:52	ACCESSION NO. MED. RECORD NO. CHART NO.	Ø16.	FERR 309	77 170	N CORONERS 4 PINTO L VEGAS, N	ANE		
	TEST		RESULTS		ABN	REFERENCE RANG	GE / UNITS	Low	NORMAL	HIGH
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Joshua Murphy (deceased) 16.1 Production 000012



NMS Labs

CONFIDENTIAL

3701 Welsh Road, PO Box 433A, Willow Grove, PA 19090-0437 Phone: (215) 657-4900 Fax: (215) 657-2972 e-mail: лms@nmslabs.com Robert A. Middleberg, PhD, DABFT, DABCC-TC, Laboratory Director

Toxicology Report

Report Issued 09/02/2009 12:01

To: 60133

Quest Diagnostics Inc. Attn: Lab Services 4230 South Burnham Avenue . Las Vegas, NV 89119

Patient Name MURPHY, JOSHUA (09-6671)

Patient ID Chain

01630977 11079041

Age Gender

11 Y Male 09187952

Workorder Page 1 of 6

Positive Findings:

Compound	<u>Result</u>	<u>Units</u>	Matrix Source
Carboxyhemoglobin	44	%	Heart Blood
Atropine	Positive	ng/mL	Peripheral Blood
Caffeine	Positive	mcg/mL	Peripheral Blood
Acetaminophen	5.2	mcg/mL	Peripheral Blood
Diphenhydramine	160	ng/mL	Peripheral Blood
Dextro / Levo Methorphan	9.1	ng/mL	Peripheral Blood

See Detailed Findings section for additional information

Testing Requested:

Analysis Code	Description
1005B	Carbon Monoxide Profile, Blood (Forensic)
8052B	Postmortem Toxicology - Expanded, Blood

Tests Not Performed:

Part or all of the requested testing was unable to be performed. Refer to the Analysis Summary and Reporting Limits section for details.

Specimens Received:

ID	Tube/Container	Volume/ Mass	Collection Date/Time	Matrix Source	Miscellaneous Information
001	Gray Top Tube	10.5 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Peripheral Blood	
002	Gray Top Tube	10.5 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Peripheral Blood	
003	Gray Top Tube	10.5 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Peripheral Blood	
004	Gray Top Tube	10 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Peripheral Blood	
005	Green Vial	6 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Heart Blood	
006	Green Vial	4 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Heart Blood	
007	Gray Top Tube	11 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Heart Blood	
800	Gray Top Tube	9 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Heart Blood	
009	Red Vial	3 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Vitreous Fluid	
010	Green Plastic Container	50 mL	08/21/2009 10:10	Urine	

All sample volumes/weights are approximations.

Specimens received on 08/25/2009.



Workorder Chain Patient ID

09187952 11079041 01630977 Case# 09-6671

Page 2 of 6

Detailed Findings:

Analysis and Comments	Result	Units	Rpt. Limit	Specimen Source	Analysis By	
Carboxyhemoglobin	44	%	2.0	005 - Heart Blood	SP	-
Atropine	Positive	ng/mL	12	001 - Peripheral Blood	GC/MS ,	
Caffeine	Positive	mcg/mL	0.10	001 - Peripheral Blood	GC/MS	
Acetaminophen	5.2	mcg/mL	0.50	001 - Peripheral Blood	HPLC	
Diphenhydramine	160	ng/mL	50	001 - Peripheral Blood	GC	
Dextro / Levo Methorphan	9.1	ng/mL	5.0	001 - Peripheral Blood	GC	

Other than the above findings, examination of the specimen(s) submitted did not reveal any positive findings of toxicological significance by procedures outlined in the accompanying Analysis Summary.

Reference Comments:

1. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) - Peripheral Blood:

Acetaminophen is an over the counter analgesic with antipyretic properties; however, it has no antiinflammatory actions. It may be found both alone and in combinations with other substances such as codeine, hydrocodone, trarnadol, butalbital, and propoxyphene. It appears to be a relatively safe substance when used in analgesic amounts; however, it frequently produces acute hepatic necrosis after overdose.

The generally accepted therapeutic range of acetaminophen is 10 - 20 mcg/mL of plasma; however, there are considerable individual differences in plasma concentrations.

Symptoms of acetaminophen overdose usually are not seen immediately but are reflected in hepatic damage after 1/2 to 6 days with concentrations of 120 mcg/mL and above. A reported range of blood levels in individuals succumbing to acetaminophen overdose ranged from 160 - 390 mcg/mL.

2. Atropine (d,I-Hyoscyamine) - Peripheral Blood:

Atropine is an anticholinergic alkaloid used in pre-anesthetic therapy to control airway secretions and as an antispasmodic to control gastrointestinal spasms. It is frequently used as an antidote in the treatment of anticholinesterase-type pesticides. It can be obtained naturally from deadly nightshade or jimson weed. Atropine is also used in resuscitative attempts.

Following a single IM 1.0 mg dose of atropine, peak plasma concentrations of approximately 3 ng/mL were attained in 30 min.

Toxic effects of atropine have considerable individual variation; however, at high doses, signs and symptoms include mydnasis, hot dry reddened skin, delirium and hallucinations. Death has been reported with a concentration of 200 ng/mL in blood and 1500 ng/mL in urine.

In resuscitative failure, most of the administered drug remains confined to the intravascular injection pathway. Often the drug is still present in the postmortem blood collected from the heart sampled at autopsy.

The reported qualitative result for this substance is indicative of a finding commonly seen following a resuscitative attempt and is usually not toxicologically significant.



Workorder 09187952 Chain 11079041 Patient ID 01630977 Case #09-6671

Page 3 of 6

Reference Comments:

Caffeine (No-Doz) - Peripheral Blood:

Caffeine is a xanthine-derived central nervous system stimulant. It also produces diuresis and cardiac and respiratory stimulation. It can be readily found in such items as coffee, tea, soft drinks and chocolate. As a reference, a typical cup of coffee or tea contains between 40 to 100 mg caffeine.

Following the oral ingestion of 120 and 300 mg of caffeine, reported peak plasma concentrations of the drug averaged 3.0 mcg/mL (range, 2.0 - 4.0 mcg/mL) and 7.9 mcg/mL (range, 6.0 - 9.0 mcg/mL), respectively. A single oral dose of 500 mg produced a reported peak plasma concentration of 14 mcg/mL after 30 min.

Reported concentrations of caffeine in caffeine-related fatalities averaged 183 mcg/mL (range, 79 - 344 mcg/mL).

The reported qualitative result for this substance is indicative of a finding commonly seen following typical use and is usually not toxicologically significant.

4. Carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) - Heart Blood:

Hemoglobin is a protein found in red blood cells that is responsible for the oxygen carrying capacity of blood. In normal conditions, hemoglobin receives oxygen via blood circulation through the lungs and delivers the oxygen to tissues and organs throughout the body. In situations where the inspired air is high in carbon monoxide concentration, the hemoglobin then binds the carbon monoxide in place of oxygen. This leads to a functional deficiency in oxygen delivery to the organs and tissues of the body.

Measurement of carbon monoxide hemoglobin saturation gives an indication of the carbon monoxide concentration in the inspired air and its possible sequelae. Normal endogenous carboxyhemoglobin levels are generally up to 4% in non-smokers and up to 8% in smokers (aithough it may be higher); toxic symptoms may be noted at levels >10%. Concentrations over 10% saturation have been reported to produce adverse effects, e.g., headache and nausea. Deaths from carbon monoxide, in the absence of resuscitative measures, generally have associated carboxyhemoglobin levels >40%. However, individuals with a compromised cardiovascular system are at a potentially greater risk of toxic effects at much lower carbon monoxide hemoglobin saturation values.

5. Dextro / Levo Methorphan - Peripheral Blood:

Dextromethorphan (DM) is the d-isomer of a synthetic codeine analog that has antitussive activity, but is without a significant analgesic effect. The drug is frequently found as a constituent of cough and cold medications for adults and children that are available over-the-counter. Oral doses range from 5 to 120 mg per day.

DM is metabolized in the liver to a few products including dextrorphan, a pharmacologically active antitussive. Genetic polymorphism exists for the rate and extent of DM metabolism. Rapid metabolizers show a mean elimination half-life of 3.4 hours while slow metabolizers (about 10% of the population) exhibit half-lives that may exceed 24 hours. Dextrorphan is generally not observed in the bloodstream; free DM, free dextrorphan, and conjugated dextrorphan are eliminated in the urine.

Following a single oral 20 mg dose, peak serum DM concentrations averaged 2 ng/mL after 2.5 hours. With chronic doses of 30 mg 4 times daily for 7 days, the mean peak plasma DM concentration was 2.4 ng/mL in extensive metabolizers and approximately 200 ng/mL in poor metabolizers.

Overdose with DM is rare, however, toxicity (which may include death) is usually manifested when doses exceed 100 times the normal adult dose. The observed symptoms include central nervous system depression, halluclnations, dizziness and ataxia. Fatalities have been reported at dextromethorphan concentrations as low as 3300 ng/mL in blood.

This test is not chiral specific; therefore, Dextromethorphan and/or Levomethorphan may be present.

6. Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) - Peripheral Blood:

Diphenhydramine is an antihistamine with sedative and anti-emetic effects. It is rapidly absorbed following oral administration; however, it is frequently given IV. Patients taking this medication are usually warned against the operation of complicated machinery, because of its strong sedative effects.

Following a single 50 mg oral dose of diphenhydramine, peak plasma concentrations at 3 hr averaged 80 ng/mL. A reported steady-state diphenhydramine concentration is 300 ng/mL.



Workorder 09187952 Chain 11079041 Patient ID 01630977

Casc #14-106-71

Page 4 of 6

Reference Comments:

Signs and symptoms of acute diphenhydramine toxicity include tremor, seizures, fever, respiratory depression and cardiac arrhythmias. Reported blood levels in fatal overdose cases ranged from 8000 - 31000 ng/mL and in urine from 40000 - 64000 ng/mL.

Lidocaine interferes with diphenhydramine in this analysis. The presence of lidocaine will adversely affect the quantitation of diphenhydramine. If lidocaine is a potential interferent in this case, call the laboratory for alternate quantitative procedures.

Sample Comments:

001 PHYSICIAN/PATHOLOGIST NAME: OLSON

Upon completion of analysis, evidence was returned under chain of custody to the Referral Laboratory.

Workorder 09187952 was electronically signed on 09/02/2009 11:56 by:

Edward J. Barbieri, Ph.D. Forensic Toxicologist

Analysis Summary and Reporting Limits:

Acode 1005B - Carbon Monoxide Profile, Blood (Forensic) - Heart Blood

-Analysis by Spectrophotometry (SP) for:

Compound

Rpt. Limit

Compound

Rpt. Limit

Carboxyhemoglobin

2.0 %

Acode 50000B - Acetaminophen Confirmation, Blood (Forensic) - Peripheral Blood

-Analysis by High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) for:

Compound

Acetaminophen

Rpt. Limit 0.50 mcg/mL

Compound

Rpt. Limit

Acode 52005B - Antihistamines Confirmation, Blood (Forensic) - Peripheral Blood

-Analysis by Gas Chromatography (GC) for:

Compound	Rpt. Limit	Compound	<u>Rpt. Limit</u>
Azatadine	N/A	Methapyrilene	100 ng/mL
Bromodiphenhydramine	30 ng/mL	Orphenadrine	50 ng/m/L
Brompheniramine	20 ng/mL	Pheniramine	20 ng/mL
Carbinoxamine	50 ng/mL	Promethazine	30 ng/mL
Chlorcyclizine	30 ng/mL	Pyrilamine	30 ng/mL
Chlorpheniramine	10 ng/mL	Tripelennamine	40 ng/mL
Diphenhydramine	50 ng/mL	Triprolidine	30 ng/mL
Bipitotti y aratturo	501l		

Doxylamine

Not Reported: Azatadine: The analysis was unsuccessful due to an interfering substance in the submitted specimen.

Acode 52027B - Dextro/Levo Methorphan Confirmation, Blood (Forensic) - Peripheral Blood



Workorder 09187 **Chain** 11079

09187952 11079041 01630977 Case # 109-6671

Page 5 of 6

Patient ID

Analysis Summary and Reporting Limits:

-Analysis by Gas Chromatography (GC) for:

Compound Rpt. Limit
Dextro / Levo Methorphan 5.0 ng/mL

Compound

Rpt. Limit

٠.

Acode 8052B - Postmortem Toxicology - Expanded, Blood - Peripheral Blood

Analysis by Colorimetry (C) for.

Compound

Rpt. Limit

Compound

Rpt. Limit

Acetaminophen

5.0 mcg/mL

-Analysis by Colorimetry (C) for.

Compound

Rpt. Limit

Compound

Rpt. Limit

Salicylates

200 mcg/mL

-Analysis by Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for:

 Compound
 Rpt. Limit
 Compound

 Barbiturates
 0.040 mcg/mL
 Methadone

 Benzodiazepines
 100 ng/mL
 Opiates

 Cannabinoids
 10 ng/mL
 Phencyclidine

 Cocaine / Metabolites
 20 ng/mL
 Propoxyphene

Rpt. Limit 25 ng/mL 20 ng/mL 10 ng/mL

50 ng/mL

-Analysis by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) for: The following is a general list of compound classes included in the Gas Chromatographic screen. The detection of any particular compound is concentration-dependent. Please note that not all known compounds included in each specified class or heading are included. Some specific compounds outside these classes are also included. For a detailed list of all compounds and reporting limits included in this screen, please contact NMS Labs.

Amphetamines, Analgesics (opioid and non-opioid), Anesthetics, Anticholinergic Agents, Anticonvulsant Agents, Antidepressants, Antiemetic Agents, Antihistamines, Antiparkinsonian Agents, Antipsychotic Agents, Anxiolytics (Benzodiazepine and others), Cardiovascular Agents (non-digitalis), Hallucinogens, Hypnosedatives (Barbiturates, Non-Benzodiazepine Hypnotics and others), Muscle Relaxants, Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Agents (excluding Salicylate) and Stimulants (Amphetamine-like and others).

-Analysis by Headspace Gas Chromatography (GC) for:

 Compound
 Rpt_Limit
 Compound
 Rpt_Limit

 Acetone
 1.0 mg/dL
 Isopropanol
 1.0 mg/dL

 Ethanol
 10 mg/dL
 Methanol
 5.0 mg/dL



Workorder 09187952 Chain 11079041

Chain 11079041 **Patient ID** 01630977

Cast # UG - 10671

Page 6 of 6

Chain of Custody Information:

Courier:

FEDEX Standard Overnight

Delivery Date:

8/25/2009 10:48:54 AM

Tracking Number:

319090395100000373790355506620

Sample Information:

ID	Receive Date	Received By
001	8/25/2009 10:51:22 AM	Quackenbush, Erin
002	8/25/2009 10:54:59 AM	Quackenbush, Erin
003	8/25/2009 10:55:46 AM	Quackenbush, Erin
004	8/25/2009 10:56:01 AM	Quackenbush, Erin
005	8/25/2009 10:56:20 AM	Quackenbush, Erin
006	8/25/2009 10:56:48 AM	Quackenbush, Erin
007	8/25/2009 10:57:21 AM	Quackenbush, Erin
800	8/25/2009 10:57:42 AM	Quackenbush, Erin
009	8/25/2009 10:58:01 AM	Quackenbush, Erin
010	8/25/2009 10:58:22 AM	Quackenbush, Erin

EXHIBIT 3

U4-1042

PARK			UNITE	ED STA					ENT K SEI			N	電內		FORM 10-343
NAME:	LAKE MEAD	NRA				NCID	ENT	RE	COR)				٧	ERSION 1/1/2009
-	Incident Numb				ncident [Month: 1		'ear: 2009		Incident T Hour: 20	ime: Min	: 38	Org	code:	LAM	ting Officer ID
EN								ال] .		L		75	
INCIDENT	Incident code	Descri	ption			_	li	ncide	nt code	Des	cription		-		
Z	80-10-00	Accid	ent, Vesse	1	-		8	36-0	0-00	Dea	ath, Ac	ciden	al		
	96-10-00	Searc	ch, Water A	\rea			<u> </u>	91-0	0-03	ALS	S Medi	cal			
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S	Suspect Complaina	nt J	lame (LAST, Iuvenile -			_				•		Date	of Birth:	Pho	one (Business):
Ö	☐ Witness ☑ Victim	^	\ddress:		4			City				State:	Zip:	Pho	one (Home):
NVOLVED PERSONS	Suspect		lame (LAST,			,					1		of Birth:		one (Cell): 2-250-5156
<u>P</u>	☐ Complaina ☐ Witness	···	\ddress:					City				State:	Zip:	Pho	one (Home):
Æ	☐ Victim ☐ Suspect		S109 Breed Name (LAST,					Las	Vegas			NV Date	89130 Of Birth:		2-395-7238 one (Cell):
0 	Complaina Complaina	ińt E	BROWNIN					City			т	01/2	4/1961	70	2-278-3936 one (Home):
≧			Address: 3109 Breed	ders Cup S	T			City Las	: Vegas			State: NV	Zip: 89130		2-395-7238
_	Vehicle- Vessel License: NV-3281-KF		State: NV	Color: Tan		Year 198		Make: Master Fabricat			Model: Houseboat			☐ Stolen ☐Recovered ☐ Impounded	
	Vehicle- Vess License:	el	State:	Color: Select		Year	:	Make:			Model:		-	Stolen Recovered Impounded	
	Vehicle- Vess License:	el	State:	Color: Select	_	Year	:	Mak	el:		1	Model:			Stolen Recovered
SUMMARY	Narrative: Additional Invovled Person: Witness: PETTIE, James Dustin; DOB: 02/24/1990; Cell: 702-277-0152, Home: 702-395-7238; Address: 6109 Breeders Cup ST, Las Vegas, NV 89130. Rescue 74 Medical Team: 1) Neel, Steve 2) Fox, Cody 4) Brown, Elwin														
RANGER	Reporting Of Gregory John Reporting Of	nson		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Date:	9/20	२७५	Supervis Prashan Supervis	Lotv	/ala /		~		Date: 8-31-2009

FORM 10-343A

Incident Number: LAME 09-2562

TYPE: Boat Accident, Fatal

SUMMARY:

Fatal, eleven year old boy, preliminary cause of death carbon monoxide asphyxiation with drowning as secondary. The incident occurred at an un-named cove, just north of Echo Bay, on the western side of the lake on August 20, 2009 at approximately 2038 hours.

ASSIGNMENT:

I was assigned this case by Supervisory Ranger Clark.

SCENE:

The accident occurred in Lake Mead NRA, on Lake Mead, Overton Arm at N36°17.9753, W114°24.2664. An un-named cove on the western side of Lake Mead, north of Echo Bay and south of Pump House Cove. The lake depth was approximately eight feet in the area the victim was found. Lake Mead's water level on August 20th was 1094.04 feet and on August 21st was 1094.09 feet.

The recorded water temperature on August 20th was 89°F (from Boulder Harbor). High and low air temperatures on August 20th as recorded at the Echo Bay Ranger Station on the morning of August 21st were 108°F and 71°F respectively. The air temperature at the time of the accident was not available. Winds at the time of the accident were calm. Skies were clear and it was a moonless night.

VESSEL INFORMATION:

Vessel#1:

Make: Master Fabricators

Model: Houseboat Year: 1986

Color: tan/blue/green

Owner: Seven Crown Resort d/b/a Echo Bay Resort

Registration# NV-3281-KF HIN: HLR01045E686 Insurance: Unknown

INJURIES:

Juvenile

Fatal, possible carbon monoxide asphyxiation with secondary as drowning. No other injuries noted. Awaiting official report from Clark County Coroner's Office.

NARRATIVE:

On August 20, 2009 at approximately 2040 hours I was off duty and contacted at my residence by Lake Mead Interagency Dispatch. The dispatcher advised me of an eleven year old boy unconscious and not breathing, CPR in progress at the Echo Bay Marina, slip 224. Overton Rescue 74, Squad 74, Medic West

Reporting Officer's Name	ID#	Supervisor's Name	ID#
Gregory Johnson	LAME75	Prashant Lotwala	2406
Reporting Officer's Signature	Date 08 29 2009	Supervisor's Signature	Date 8-31-2009

FORM 10-343A

Incident Number: LAME 09-2562

TYPE: Boat Accident, Fatal

and Mercy Air 11 had also been dispatched by Clark County per Lake Mead Dispatch. Ranger Dollinger was also called out.

At approximately 2046 hours I arrived at the Echo Bay Marina head walk. Within two to three minutes Ranger Dollinger also arrived and staged in his vehicle to maintain radio communications with the dispatcher. I searched the dock area and announced myself several times upon arrival to the marina and did not see or hear anyone respond. Additionally, Ranger Dollinger made two announcements via his PA in his patrol vehicle that also went unanswered. By this time the Echo Bay Security Guard – Ledeel – arrived and informed us that he had done a check of the marina earlier and no one was on the marina. We advised Ledeel of the situation and he advised that there was no slip number 224, hotel room 224 or site 224 either in their campground or trailer village. Ledeel then determined that there was a house boat number 224 that was rented and out on the lake, however it was unknown where.

At approximately 2107 hours Rescue 74 received information from their dispatcher that the reporting party was in houseboat 224. At approximately 2113 hours Clark County Fire Dispatch advised that houseboat 224 was north of Echo Bay possibly Anchor or Pump House Cove Area. At approximately 2126 hours Mercy Air 11 had possibly located houseboat 224 just north of Echo Bay in a cove on the west shore.

At approximately 2129 hours Metro SAR was requested by Supervisory Ranger Clark to be available to extricate the patient from the scene and transport the patient to the waiting Mercy Air 11 that had now landed at the Echo Bay Launch Ramp to conserve fuel.

At approximately 2136 hours, I had Vessel 62 staged and a medical team from Rescue 74 on board and awaiting a night operator at the Echo Bay Courtesy Dock. At approximately 2151 hours, Ranger Martin a qualified night boat operator arrived and we launched.

At approximately 2205 hours we were checking the area known as Pump House Cove and were advised that the reporting party had seen our lights. We were unable to locate any vessels in the area and turned back to search the un-named cove north of Echo Bay and south of Pump House Cove. Upon heading south at the entrance of the cove we located a vessel with house lights on and a person flashing a flashlight in our direction at approximately 2225 hours.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

At approximately 2231 hours we made contact with the reporting party on their houseboat. CPR was in progress at the time on the rear deck of the houseboat. The medical team from Rescue 74 immediately boarded the boat and began patient care. Ranger Martin and I secured our vessel to the house boat. At approximately 2233hours, Metro SAR Air 6 was overhead delivering a medic to load the patient and transport him back to the Echo Bay Launch Ramp where Mercy Air 11 was waiting. While on board the

Reporting Officer's Name ID # Gregory Johnson LAME75	Supervisor's Name Prashant Lotwala	ID# 2406
Reporting Officer's Signature Date	Supervisor's Signature	Date
7, 08/29/2009	that h	~ 8-31-2009 _

FORM 10-343A

Incident Number: LAME 09-2562

TYPE: Boat Accident, Fatal

houseboat I could smell the odor of alcoholic beverages and also noticed several empty beer cans on board the vessel.

House boat 224 was turned 180 degrees as a result of the rotor wash from Metro SAR Air 6 and broke free from the single line, originally off the port side that was secured to the beach. Metro SAR Air 6 extricated the patient and transported him to Mercy Air 11 waiting at the Echo Bay Launch Ramp. I secured the vessel via two lines to the shore. The family was loaded on board vessel 62 placed in PFDs and transported back to the Echo Bay Courtesy Dock.

At approximately 2334 I transported James Pettie and Ranger Dollinger transported Michael and Tina Browning from the Echo Bay Courtesy Dock to the Echo Bay Ranger Station to await confirmation on where **Juvenile** had been transported to. While there Michael Browning made a voluntary, un-solicited statement (see below).

After confirmation was made that **Juvenile** had been transported to UMC, the family was advised of this by Supervisory Ranger Clark at approximately 0010 hours. At approximately 0013hours Michael Browning took a voluntary PBT, administered by Ranger Dollinger, to determine if he was capable of safely driving to the hospital, it indicated a 0.095%BrAC. It was determined that Tina Browning should drive to the hospital and not Michael.

On the morning of August 21, 2009, Ranger Stolts, Supervisory Ranger Lotwala and I went back to the houseboat that was left over night. We found among other things meat that was located on the grill of the houseboat that had been partially cooked from the previous evening, along with other food that was left on the stove. Additionally, after we finished photographing the vessel and inspecting it at the location it was left the previous night, the houseboat was taken back to the Echo Bay Marina by Echo Bay Marina Employees. The marina employees were asked to remove the personal belongings from the vessel and store them for the family. While doing so, Joel O'Brien located in the top drawer in the bathroom a marijuana grinder and under the bunk beds in the middle of the cabin a bag containing tin foil with black soot on it. Further, James Riggle also located a pen that appeared to have been used to smoke something. They immediately contacted Supervisory Ranger Lotwala who contacted Ranger Stolts and I. Ranger Stolts and I immediately went to the houseboat and took possession of the items that appeared to be drug paraphernalia. The pen tube was later tested and found to be positive for Amphetamines and a secondary test indicated a positive result for codeine/morphine.

On August 24, 2009 while at the Browning residence at 6109 Breeders Cup ST conducting follow up interviews, Ranger Stolts noticed a marijuana plant growing in the back yard. I also observed the plant which was approximately 2½ feet tall. We questioned Michael about this and he replied substantially that: it was from several years ago, the kids threw some marijuana seeds in the soil there as a joke and now every year a plant sprouts. Usually, we don't let it get this tall, that it is pulled out earlier but we just forgot about

Reporting Officer's Name Gregory Johnson	id# LAME75	Supervisor's Name Prashant Lotwala	ID# 2406	
Reporting Officer's Signature	Date 08/29/2009	Supervisor's Signature Multi-	Date 8-31-2009	

FORM 10-343A

Incident Number: LAME 09-2562

TYPE: Boat Accident, Fatal

and ignored it this year. Ranger Stolts directed Michael to remove the plant from the soil and destroy it, which he did.

EVIDENCE:

See the following items attached:

- Boat Accident Report and attachments (bearing CIR# 09-2562)
- Preliminary coroner's report (bearing case number 09-06671)
- Custody Property Records, 3 (bearing CIR# 09-2562)
- Evidence Report, 1 two pages (bearing CIR# 09-2562)
- Photo Log (bearing CIR# 09-2562)
- Written statement of Michael G. Browning
- Written statement of James Pettie

INTERVIEWS:

On August 20, 2009 at approximately 2338 hours Michael Browning was in the Echo Bay Ranger Station awaiting word on where Juvenile had been transported and stated substantially that: He wasn't sure how this had happened. That he had been grilling on the bow of the boat and had gone back to the stern area and told Juvenile that dinner was about ready and it was time to get out of the water. Juvenile had been swimming and playing on a raft that was tied to the houseboat with a rope. Sometime before this, Juvenile had told Michael that the water coming out of the generator discharge felt warm on his feet. Michael told Juvenile to stay away from that area. He then went back to grilling, approximately five minutes after telling Juvenile that diner was about ready, James asked where Juvenile was. Michael then called Juvenile's name several times without answer as he was searching both inside and outside the houseboat for Juvenile. It was then that Michael looked over the aft starboard side of the rail and saw Juvenile floating face down in the water. Michael immediately pulled him up on the deck and began CPR while James called 9-1-1 via the cell phone.

On August 22, 2009 between approximately 1050 and 1130 hours, Michael came to the Echo Bay Ranger Station and stated substantially the following (Ranger Stolts was also present for this interview): On August 20th, he and his family returned from the Echo Bay Marina between 1600 and 1700 hours to their houseboat. At about which time the generator for the houseboat was turned on. Shortly before approximately 2038 hours he was grilling on the bow of the vessel and his son **Juvenile** was near the starboard stern playing on a raft that was tied to the vessel at or just forward of the starboard stern gate. He told **Juvenile** to get out of the water that it was about dinner time and **Juvenile** replied, "Okay daddy".

(While playing in that area at some point prior to being told it was time for dinner, Juvenile had stated to him that the water was warm on his (Juvenile) feet, to which Michael replied, to stay away from that area.)

Reporting Officer's Name	ID#	Supervisor's Name	1D#
Gregory Johnson	LAME75	Prashant Lotwala	2406
Reporting Officer's Signature	Date 08/24/2009	Supervisor's Signature	Date 8-31-2009

FORM 10-343A

Incident Number: LAME 09-2562

TYPE: Boat Accident, Fatal

Approximately five minutes later, James came up and asked him where Juvenile was, and he told him that Juvenile was on the raft; he then looked off the side and didn't see Juvenile. He then went through the cabin of the vessel to the stern and looked off both sides while calling for Juvenile. At this time, he looked over the edge of the railing where Juvenile had been playing on the starboard side and saw him floating face down in the water between the house boat and the raft, Juvenile's head pointing toward the bow of the boat. He immediately pulled Juvenile from the water and began CPR while James called 9-1-1.

While on the phone with 9-1-1 he told the dispatcher that he was north of Echo Bay, "Turn left and we're right there." While doing CPR and talking to 9-1-1 a helicopter flew over and continued too far north, he advised the dispatcher of this and told them they needed to come back south. He stated that he had a good connection with 9-1-1 until they saw the patrol boat enter the wrong cove, he set the phone down and when he picked it back up the line was dead.

Juvenile had been feeling congested for the past couple of nights so on the morning of the 20th he gave him a single caplet of day-quil at approximately 1000 hours. Described Juvenile as "strong athlete" and "excellent swimmer". He had no history of mental problems and his primary care physician was back in Montana.

We clarified with Michael who the diabetic supplies were for and he advised that they were James'. Additionally, we clarified who the tin foil, pen tube and marijuana grinder belonged to. He stated that they were likely James' and he didn't know that James had brought them on the boat. He further stated that James had a history of abusing his (James') prescription pain medication and had previously been in a detox program and had plans on returning to another program after the vacation.

Michael also took written statement forms home to complete on August 20th.

On August 24, 2009 between approximately 1500 and 1550 hours, Ranger Stolts and I met with Tina Browning, Juvenile's stepmother at her residence. She stated substantially that: at approximately 1800 hours on August 20th they returned to the houseboat from the Echo Bay Marina Store. At which time she began preparing dinner in the kitchen while Juvenile went swimming. While in the kitchen she heard Juvenile splashing around in the water and could tell that he was okay. Within approximately five to ten minutes after that, Michael had come through the cabin looking for Juvenile. She went to the stern of the vessel and saw Michael pull Juvenile out of the water. She assisted with CPR and talking to the 9-1-1 dispatcher. She also looked for flares but was unable to find any. She finally was able to find a "brand new" flashlight that they had brought and put batteries in it, and began to use it to signal the helicopter and patrol boat.

She further added that they had been doing CPR for about $2-2\frac{1}{2}$ hours prior to help arriving. That, "If I only knew about the carbon monoxide I never would have rented the boat." They had rented the boat and left Echo Bay early Tuesday morning and planned on staying four days, and on Thursday took the speed boat

Reporting Officer's Name	id#	Supervisor's Name Prashant Lotwala	ID#
Gregory Johnson	LAME75		2406
Reporting Officer's Signature	Date 08/29/2009	Supervisor's Signature	S-31-200 5

FORM 10-343A

Incident Number: LAME 09-2562

TYPE: Boat Accident, Fatal

that they also rented and went into Echo Bay and asked to stay a fifth day. That **Juvenile**, "Swam like a fish," and earlier in the day while out on the speed boat had been swimming around the speed boat and was a, "Strong swimmer." **Juvenile** had been swimming all day and did not have his mask and snorkel on at this time because it, "Was starting to get dark."

They had the generator off for most of the day and had turned it on to cook dinner and it had been running for about thirty minutes to an hour – but was not sure.

She also clarified the drug paraphernalia including the tin foil, pen tube and marijuana grinder and said that it was James'. That James had been in a detox program but they were unable to afford keeping him there but had plans to get him into another more affordable program. That she was on several prescriptions including strong pain killers but often took less than the prescribed amounts.

Due to Tina's emotional state, she was not asked to complete a written statement.

On August 24, 2009 between approximately 1550 and 1630 hours Ranger Stolts and I spoke with James Pettie at his residence. He stated substantially the following: At approximately 1730 or 1800 he and the others arrived back at the houseboat from the Echo Bay Marina. **Juvenile** went to play in the water and wanted him to come play as well, instead he went to take a nap on the top bunk in the rear of the houseboat.

He awoke sometime later — approximately 1½ to 2½ hours later. During this time Juvenile had been swimming. He had been awake about 10-15 minutes when he got a cigarette and a coke and went to the area where Juvenile was playing and set the coke down. He then went up to where Michael was grilling. During the time that he was up where Michael was grilling, Michael told Juvenile it was time to get out, that dinner was almost ready. Not more than two to three minutes later, he got a towel and went to the stern of the houseboat to get Juvenile out of the water. At this time he couldn't find Juvenile and started yelling for him. He then hollered for Michael. It took Michael, "only a second to get to the back of the houseboat and find him." Michael then pulled Juvenile out of the water and he (James) grabbed his cell phone and called 9-1-1. He then handed the phone to Michael and started CPR on Juvenile. He was doing CPR at a rate of two breaths to thirty compressions.

He described Juvenile as a, "Good swimmer, he could probably swim better than I could."

He said that the generator was off most of the day. When they returned from the Echo Bay Marina, they turned the generator on and it had been running for three to four hours.

When questioned about the drug paraphernalia, he stated that it was his. Further, he described the tin foil and pen tube as being used to smoke his prescription pills. He used the exterior of the marijuana grinder to

Reporting Officer's Name	ID#	Supervisor's Name	ID#
Gregory Johnson	LAME75	Prashant Lotwala	2406
Reporting Officer's Signature	Date 08/29/2009	Sufervisor's Signature	8-31-2009

FORM 10-343A

time. That he had been in rehab/detox for two weeks, getting out on July 14.

Juvenile also provided a written statement on notebook paper.

On August 24, 2009 at approximately 1630 hours, Ranger Stolts spoke with Michael Browning at his residence, he stated substantially that: during the orientation they only mentioned the CO detectors inside, not of CO poisoning outside. They were told to read the warning signs. As far as instruction on the generator, only showed how to start, stop and to run it six to eight hours a day. That "Echo Bob" gave the orientation, and said him and his wife would run the generator all night for the AC. The entire orientation took about forty minutes.

DISPOSITION:

Open: waiting for final coroner's report and Coast Guard Marine Investigator's report.

CHARGES PENDING:

None at this time.

Reporting Officer's Name	ID#	Supervisor's Name	ID#
Gregory Johnson	LAME75	Prashant Lotwala	2406
Reporting Officer's Signature	Date 08/29/2009	Supervisor's Signature	Date 8-31-2009

FORM 10-343A

Incident Number: LAME 09-2562

TYPE: Boat Accident, Fatal

Juvenile's Information:

MURPHY, Joshua; DOB: 04/25/1998; 608 Ash ST, Anaconda, MT 59711

JUVENILE

Reporting Officer's Name	ID#	Supervisor's Name Prashant Lotwala	1D #
Gregory Johnson	LAME75		2406
Reporting Officer's Signature	Date 08/29/2009	Supervisor's Signature	Date 8-31-2009



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERV BOAT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

COAST GUARD CASE #		REPORTING A CASE #	GENCY		1	NVEST. DA	TE
CASE#		UAGE#	LAME 09-256	2			8/21/2009
COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL	PROPERTY DA	MAGE OVER \$5	200 YES ☐ NO ☒ FAT DO YES ☐ NO ☒ INJU	ALITY 🔯 IF JRIES BEYO	YES, NUMBER 1 ND FIRST AID N	IO 🔯 IF YES	S, NUMBER
DATE OF	TIME (24 HOUR CLO		CIDENT DATA BODY OF WATER	LOCA	TION (GIVE LOCAT	TION PRECIS	ELY)
ACCIDENT 8/20/2009	2038	LAKE ME			.9753, W 114 24.26		-2.,
NUMBER OF VESSELS INVOLVED 1	NEAREST CITY OR OVERTON	TOWN (STATE C	OF OCCURRENCE)	COUNTY	s	TATE NV	ZIP 89040
WEATHER (CIRCLE ALL APPLICABLE)	WATER CONDI	TIONS	TEMPERATURES	WIN	D		WARNING IN EFFECT
□ CLEAR	□ CHOPPY (6* □ ROUGH (2'-6* □ VERY ROUGH (2'-6*) □ STRONG CU	-2') i') iH (>6')	AIR *F WATER 89.00 * F	DIRE	IONE ECTION IGHT (0-8 MPH) MODERATE (7-14 ITRONG (15-25 M ITORM (OVER 26	MPH)	⊠ NONE ☐ SMALL CRAFT ☐ GALE ☐ STORM
	ESSEL 1 #2 CABIN MOTOF SAIL (ONLY) CANOE/KAYAI PONTOON BO	R BOAT VES #1 X X X X X X X X X	L MATERIAL SEL #2 WOOD STEEL RUBBER / VINYL / CANVAS	VES #1		SS L INFLAT.	VISIBILITY DAY NIGHT GOOD FAIR POOR
ENGINE VESSEL #1 #2 □ □ OUTBOARD □ □ INBOARD □ □ INBOARD-STERNDRIVE (I/C	\#1 ⊠ □	EL #2 GASOLIN DIESEL ELECTRIC	🗀 🗆 A	ROPELLER	<u>VESSEL</u> #1 #2 	ATER JET NUAL	RENTED BOAT VESSEL #1 Ø YES
WHAT CONTRIBUTED TO ACCIDENT	<u> </u>				OPERATION VESSEL	AT TIME O	FACCIDENT
VESSEL #1 #2 WEATHER NO PROPER LOOKOUT RESTRICTED VISION IMPROPER LOADING FAIL TO YEILD OPERATOR INATTENTION PASSENGER/SKIER BEHA		EXCESSIVE SI NO SKIER LOO OVERLOADING HAZARDOUS V DRUG USE I ALCOHOL USE EQUIPMENT F NAV. LIGHTS I DISPLAYED, O CONGESTED O HULL FAILURE OTHER: SWIMI	DICOUT SATERS E FAILURE MPROPERLY MOUNTE IN COLORED WATERS E MER BEHAVIOR	D,	#1 #2 CR	FANCHOR	D DDLING NDOCKING
ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT VESSEL # 1 # 2	VETC.	GROUNT GAPSIN FILOODI SINKING FIRE EX SKIER M COLLISI	DING NG NG / SWAMPING ; PLOSION (FUEL)	VESS #1	#2 COLLISION COLLISION FALLS OVE FALLS IN B STRUCK B STRUCK B HIT AND R	I WITH FIXE I WITH FLO ERBOARD IOAT Y BOAT Y MOTOR / UN OSION (OTI ARBON MOI	ED OBJECT ATING OBJECT

SUBSTANTIAL, BODILY HARM" MEANS:

1. BODILY INJURY WHICH CREATES A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF DEATH OR WHICH CAUSES <u>SERIOUS</u>, <u>PERMANENT</u> DISFIGURMENT OR PROTACCTED LOSS OR MPAIRMENT OF THE FUNCTION OF ANY BODILY MEMBER OR ORGAN. OR

2. PROLONGED PHYSICAL PAIN

VESSEL #1 - NAME OF OPER	ATOR	FRIST:	Michael		М	1): G		RATOR ADDRESS		_		
LAST: BROWNING								BREEDERS CUP ST Y LAS VEGAS		ST, NV Z	IP CODE	89130
MALE S FEMALE		DOB (n	nm/dd/yyy	'yy)			OPE	RATOR EXPERIENCE	FOR	MAL INS	TRUCTIC	N IN BOATING SAFETY
5'8" HT 200 WT BLU EYES BL	O HAIR			TY NUMBE	R		□ 1	JNDER 10 HOURS 0 TO 100 HOURS OVER 100 HOURS	l 🗅 n	SCG AU	([U.S. POWER SQDN AMERICAN RED CROSS
OPERATOR TELEPHONE NUM (702) 395 - 7238	BER	DL. RE		3261 ST.NV ON? ⊠ NO Y:		 ES				IFORMAI THER:	_	□ NONE
MEDICAL TREATEMENT BEYO		TAID?	YES N		DES	CRIBE:	FATA	L: YES NO				
NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BO		WAS PFD		 PE			EST	IMATED SPEED				
NUMBER OF PERSONS TOWE	D	BEFOR	RE RESULT O	F ACCIDE	NT		⊠ı	JNDER 10 MPH 🗍 10-20	MPH [OVER	20 MPH	OVER 40 MPH
BOAT REGISTRATION OR DOO NV 3281 KF	CUMENT	ATION NUI	MBER		STAT NV	ΓE		L IDENTIFICATION NUM 01045E686	IBER		BOAT 224	NAME
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NAME OF OWNER ECHO BAY RESORT	_							NUMBER OF ENGINES	3		TOTAL I	HORSEPOWER
OWNER ADDRESS STREETHC-30, BOX 30 CITYOVERTON				ST N	ע זיי	P CODE8904			_		R TELEPH 14 - 4000	HONE NUMBER
CITTOVERTON	01	HER PER	40 RNOS					SONS, LIST AT TOP OF N	JARRA	TIVE		
# 1 NAME Browning, Tina M.				DOB:				REEDERS CUP ST			רו נומר	YES X NO, TYPE
MEDICAL TREATMENT BEYON YES DESCRIBE FATAL	☐ YES) IF	1/24/1961 ☐ M 🖾 F		CITY Las Ve	egas IE#(7	ST NV ZIP 89130 02) 395 - 7238	□ B	EFORE	⊒ AS A F	RESULT OF ACCIDENT?
# 2 NAME Pettie, James Dustin MEDICAL TREATMENT BEYON YES DESCRIBE FATAL	ND FRIST		O IF	DOB: 2/24/1990 ☑ M ☐ F		CITY Las V	egas (IE # (7	REEDERS CUP ST ST NV ZIP 89130 02) 395 - 7238	□ B	EFORE 1	⊒ AS Ā F	YES NO, TYPE RESULT OF ACCIDENT?
# 3 NAME Murphy, Joshua MEDICAL TREATMENT BEYON YES DESCRIBE FATAL	ND FRIST		O IF	DOB: 4/25/1996 ⊠ M □ F		ADDRESS: CITY Anaco TELEPHON	onda S	ST MT ZIP 59711				YES NO, TYPE RESULT OF ACCIDENT?
VESSEL # 2 - NAME OF OPER		FRIST	-	_		MI	OP	ERATOR ADDRESS				
DAST							.CIT	Υ			ST	ZIP CODE
MALE FEMALE		DOB (mm/dd/yy	yyy)			OP	ERATOR EXPERIENCE	FOF	MAL INS	TRUCTI	ON IN BOATING SAFETY
· HT WT EYES	HAIR	SOCIA	L SECUR	RTY NUMBI	ER		7 🗖	UNDER 10 HOURS 10 TO 100 HOURS OVER 100 HOURS	ים	ISCG AU	X	☐ U.S. POWER SQDN ☐ AMERICAN RED CROSS
OPERATOR TELEPHONE NUM	MBER			ST. ON? NO	PΩΥ	'ES				NFORMA OTHER:	L	NONE
MEDICAL TREATEMENT BEY	OND FRIS	ST AID?	YES [NO IF YES	DES	SCRIBE:	FAT	AL: YES NO				
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CITY		THER PE	RSONS O		_		3 PER	SONS, LIST AT TOP OF	NARR	ATIVE		<u>`</u>
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MEDICAL TREATMENT BEYO DESCRIBE FATAL D			NO IF YES	S □M[<u>□</u> F	CITY TELEPHO	ST NE#(ZIP 		BEFORE	☐ AS A	RESULT OF ACCIDENT?
# 2 NAME MEDICAL TREATMENT BEYO DESCRIBE FATAL			O IF YES	DOB:		ADDRESS CITY TELEPHO	ST	ZIP				YES NO, TYPE RESULT OF ACCIDENT?
# 3 NAME MEDICAL TREATMENT BEYOUR DESCRIBE FATAL IT	OND FRIS	T AID 🗇	NO IF YES	DOB:		ADDRESS CITY TELEPHO	3:	ST ZIP				YES NO, TYPE RESULT OF ACCIDENT?

PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES				EQUIPME	<u> </u>	VESSEL # 1	VESSEL # 2
<u>VES</u> :	SEL # 1	VESSEL !	<u>‡ 2</u>	FIRE EXTI	MGUISHER ON		
WAS THE VESSEL ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED WITH COAST GUARD APPROVED FLOTATION	•			BOARD?	NGUISHER UN	⊠ YES □ NO	□ YES □ NO
DEVICES?	S 🗆 NO	☐ YES [ON	REQUIRE	NUMBER(S)?	☑ YES □ NO	□ YES □ NO
WERE THEY ACCESSIBLE? ☑ YE	S I NO	☐ YES [ON	FIREEXTI	NGUISHER USED?	☐ YES 🖾 NO	☐ YES ☐ NO
WERE THEY PROPERLY SIZED?	S 🗆 NO	☐ YES [ON	FLAME AR		⊠ YES □ NO	□YES □ NO
WAS A THROWABLE USED?	S ⊠ NO	☐ YES [ON	Í	RODUCING DEVICE		□ YES □ NO
	WITN	ESSES NOT (ON VESSE	L(S)			
NAME: LAST: First:			ADDR	ESS	_	TELE. #	
NAME			CITY	ST	ZIP		
LAST: First:					710	TELE.	
NAME			CITY	ESS ST	<u> ZIP</u>	TELE.	<u> </u>
LAST: First:			CITY	ST	Zes	()	•
NAME LAST: First:			ADDR	ESS		TELE.	*
<u></u>			CITY	ST	ZIP	***	
	I	ORUG / ALCO	HOL USE				
HOW LONG HAD OPERATOR BEEN ON THE WATER BEFO OCCURRED?	RE THIS AC	CIDENT			DUOR OR ALCOHOLIC I		OARD DURING
VESSEL # 1 3.5 days	VESSE n/a				FAND TYPE; unknown	120,	
u.o dayo	,	•			T AND TYPE: n/a		
ALCOHOL / DRUG USE: VESSEL # 1	VESSE	. # 2			EST RESULTS	DID ANY OF THE	HE PASSENGERS
ALCOHOL/DRUG USE APPARENT ☑ YES ☐ NO	☐ YES	NO D	BLOOD	<u>VESSE</u>	L#1 VESSEL#2	1	
OUI ALCOHOL	☐ YES		BREATH URINE	!		VESSEL#1	VESSEL#2
OUI ALCOHOL / DRUGS		NO NO	OTHER			☐YES ☑ NO	☐ YES ☐ NO
COULD THE ACTIONS OF THE PASSENGERS HAVE CON'	RIBUTED TO	THE ACCID		O X YES IF	YES, DESCRIBE:	<u> </u>	
See attached report. VESSEL # 1			_				
INSURANCE COMPANY: VESSEL # 2			IMPOUN	IDED/ STOR	ED:		
INSURANCE COMPANY: VIOLATIONS CHARGED:	$\overline{}$		IMPOUN	DED/ STOR	ED:		
NAME:	VESSEL	#	VIOLATI	ON CODE(S	:	_	
NAME:	VESSEL	*	VIOLATI	ON CODE(S) :		
NAME OF OWNER OF DAMAGED PROPERTY OTHER THAN VESSELS			DAMAGE		ADDRESS:		
DESCRIBE OTHER PROPERTY:					CITY: ST	ZIP	·
DAMAGE BOAT #4 DAMAGE ESTIMATE		#1		¥2	DAMAGE BOAT #2, D		ΓE
INITIAL IMPACT POINT #:		13 - BEL	E	/	INITIAL IMPACT POIN		
MARK OR CIRCLE NUMBERS OF ALL OTHER DAMAGED	AREAS	14- LOV 15- WiN	DSHIELD		MARK OR CIRCLE NU AREAS	IMBERS OF ALL	OTHER DAMAGED
		16- BUR	K		_ ,	<u> </u>	
1 2 3 4	5 /	☐ 18- INJU ☐ 19- NO I				2 3 4	/ 5 [□]
	60	INDICATE PO	SITION IN	ESSEL FOR	D12	-	ž 60
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11 10 9 8	70	POST ACC R	ELATION TO	BOAT	/ اات	19 8	7 0
		R-REMAINS	ABORD		(a , 6 , 1	」 \
DESCRIBE DAMAGE:		E-EJECTED L'ALEAVES BO T-TRAPPED	DAT VOLUN	TARILY			_
}			AMPLES		DESCRIBE DAMAGE:		
		OAR - OPER	ATOR STAN	D			
		2SF- PASSE OVERB	OARD	TEU FALL			•

DIAGRAM BELOW THE POSITION A	ND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL O	OF BOTH BOAT(S) INVOLVED	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
BEFORE	AT	AND AFTER IMPACT NOT TO SCALE	
			A N
VI=Houseboat (NV32B1 KF)	LAMD	Bow	
V2 = Rented Speed Boat		TVI 1	
G=Generator	<i>P</i> 8	an l	
E=Ergines R=Raft	· [v	1296 CAPE	<i>*</i>
		[G A	
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NARRATIVE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

On August 20, 2009 at approximately 2040 hours I was off duty and contacted at my residence to respond to a reported drowning of an eleven year old that fell off a boat, CPR in progress at Echo Bay Marina slip 224. After arrival at approximately 2046 hours Ranger Dollinger and I found that there was no slip 224 at Echo Bay. Further investigation revealed that It was actually Echo Bay houseboat 224 which was rented and out on the water.

At approximately 2231 hours Ranger Martin and I along with a medical team from Rescue 74 arrived on scene at the location listed above. Upon our arrival the family was doing CPR on the eleven year old on the aft deck of the houseboat. The eleven year old was airlifted from the scene by Metro SAR Air 6 to the Echo Bay Launch Ramp. He was then transferred to Mercy Air 11 and transported to UMC Trauma.

Investigation later revealed that the eleven year old was floating on a raft tied the houseboat for sometime near the aft starboard area of the houseboat. The family states that they had last seen the eleven year old playing 3-5 minutes before he was pulled from the water face down not breathing. The generator for the house boat was running during this time, which was located in the aft starboard corner of the vessel.

A preliminary report from the Clark County Coroner's Office indicated that carbon monoxide poisoning was the primary cause of death, with drowning secondary.

	<u> </u>		
DATE REPORT FORWARD TO: U.S. COST GUARD MSO ST	ATE REPORTING AUTHORITY U	SNPS/LMNRA OTHER (AGENCY)	
U.S. COAST GUARD STANDARDS BRANCH NOTIFIED FOR POS	SIBLE CONCIDERATION OF DEFECT N	OTIFICATION 🖾 NO 🗌 YES, DATE	
REPORTING OFFICER'S NAME (PRINT)	PHONE #	AGENCY	DATE
Gregory Johnson	(702)293 - 8998 EXT.	US NPS, LAKE MEAD NRA	09/09/2009
REPORTING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	00.	AGENCY ADDRESS 601 BOULDER HWY BOULDER CITY, I	NV 89005,
APPROVED BY (PRINT) Prashant Lotwala	SIGNATURE I	~	9-15-2009
(DO NOT USE	FOR STATE REPORTING AUTHOURI	TY REVIEW	
CAUSES BASED ON (CHECK ONE) THIS REPORT NVESTIGATION COULD NOT BE DETERMINED	SIGNATURE OF REVIEWING OFFICE	ER	DATE
PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT		SECONDARY CAUSE ACCIDENT	
, <u>, , </u>			

BOAT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION FATALITY REPORT UVENILE

(COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON DECEASED)

NAME: (Last, First Middle)	_	ADDRESS	5: 608 Ash	ST	OCCUPATION:
Murphy, Joshua		Anac		59711	Student
RACE: SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:	4.1.	' .	VESSEL	VICTIM'S SWIMN	MING ABILITY:
	DOB: <u>04</u> /2	<u>5,48</u>	NUMBER:	0 - UNKN	
Caucasian	SEX: M	F .			SWIMMER
			·	· '	
		_			
PHYSICAL CONDITION:	ACTIVITY	AT TIME O		VICTIM'S DRESS	
1. BLACKOUT/EPILEPSY/SEIZURE 2. EYESIGHT/DEFECT	1. OPERAT		OTHER (EXPLAIN)	0 - BATH 1 - LIGHT	
3. FATIGUE/ASLEEP	3. SKIING	NGEN	. 1		Y CLOTHING
4. HEARING	4. SWIMM		<u>4</u>	3 - OTHE	₹ '
5. SICK/ILL (NUMBER) 6. NONE KNOWN	5. SCUBA 6. SNORK		(NUMBER)		, , , , ,
7. UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF	7. FISHING				•
ALCOHOL/DRUGS BAC:	8. HUNTIN		IDER		•••
S. 8. OTHER (explain)	9. WITHES	SS/BYSTAN	DEATH CAUSED B	Y:	
WAS VICTIM WEARING A P.F.D.7 YES	NO.X		0 - UNK	1 - DROWNING	
WAS VICTIM WEARING A P.F.D. WHEN RE	ECOVERED?		2 - DISAPPE	AR 3 - IMPA	CT 4 - INJURY
YES_ NOX IF YES, LIST TYPE:	20072.120.				
			AUTOPSY? X	YES NO STATUS CODES: (oirole ppe)
F ADMINISTERED BY:	,		1. DNA/UNKNOW		ATED AND RELEASED
1 1 A		•	2. FIRST AID ONLY		MITTED TO HOSPITAL
R TYPE ADMINISTERED:			3. MEDICAL TREA BEYOND FIRST		JSED TREATMENT
T	• •		4. INCAPACITATE	D OVER 24 HOURS	
H TAKEN TO: University Medical C	enter, La	us Vega	s, NV		
BY: Mercy Air 11	,				
RELEASED TO:	PERS	INAL PROP	ERIY		
N La					
RELATION:	DATE:		TIME: AM/PM	BY:	
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ENTALITY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



CASE NO: LAME 09-2562

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EXHIBIT 4

ENGINEER'S REPORT of the JOSHUA MURPHY INCIDENT

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$

Arthur W. Faherty

February 26, 2010

File No. 09FE0363

Robson Forensic

Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

JOSHUA MURPHY INCIDENT

ENGINEER'S REPORT

26 February 2010

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Joshua Murphy was an 11 year old boy, on vacation with his family at Lake Mead in Echo Bay, Nevada. The family had rented a houseboat from Seven Crown Resorts. On 20 August 2009, the family brought the houseboat into Pump House Cove on the beach, secured the two outboard engines and was preparing dinner with the houseboat generator running. Joshua was on board a raft alongside the houseboat when he was overcome with carbon monoxide and died.

The purpose of my investigation is to determine whether the actions/inactions of Seven Crown Resorts were a cause of Joshua's fatal injury.

2.0 AVAILABLE INFORMATION

- Clark County Corner Autopsy Report, August 21, 2009 of Joshua Murphy
- Site visit, 31 August 2009

3.0 EQUIPMENT

I photographed, measured and inspected the incident houseboat on 31 August 2009. The generator engine on the incident houseboat is a Westerbeke, Serial Number JL-1614-E802, 4 cylinder, 4 stroke gasoline engine. The engine nameplate data has the following information:

- Date of manufacture February 2008
- Family Name 8 X 7 X SI 502AA
- Displacement 1468
- Emissions Control System EM TWC
- Emissions Compliance Period Category B

The engine has an uplift, or waterlift, exhaust system where the exhaust is cooled by raw water and exhausted above the waterline on the starboard (right) side aft, approximately 12" off the water.

On the houseboat there is a danger sign located amidship, just forward of the 2 outboard engines, facing forward that states "Danger Carbon Monoxide/Exhaust is located Rear of Boat when Generator is operating. Caution when swimming in this area."

There is a small sign outboard, starboard side, aft and above the exhaust pipe that states "Danger Carbon Monoxide Exhaust Fumes."



4.0 ANALYSIS

The Clark County Coroner's Autopsy Report puts the cause of death of 11 year old Joshua Murphy "as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning." According to the coroner's report the circumstance of death is:

On 08/20/09 at approximately 2020 hours the decedent was floating on a raft next to the houseboat near the running generator on the back of the boat in Pump House Cove at Lake Mead. His father was cooking dinner and yelled out to the decedent to tell him that dinner would be ready in a few minutes. The father turned around and when he looked back he did not see the decedent. The father and other family members looked inside the houseboat for the decedent but could not locate him. Approximately 5 minutes later the father saw the decedent in the water next to the boat face down.

Seven Crown Resorts operates the marina/resort at Echo Bay on Lake Mead in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (National Park) where the Murphy family had rented the incident houseboat. Seven Crown Resorts also has locations on Lake Mohave, Lake Shasta and in the California Delta. According to its website, "Seven Crown Resorts is one of the largest houseboat vacation companies in the U.S. and we're committed to giving you the best facilities and the most attractive rates anywhere." The Murphy family was using the houseboat as it was intended.

Joshua was fatally injured when he was unnecessarily and unreasonably exposed to the hazard of carbon monoxide. The combination of hazard and exposure created unreasonably dangerous conditions for Joshua which caused the fatal injury.

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is a well known and documented issue on recreational houseboats. From the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health website¹ the following excerpt describes the depth and breadth of the problem:

In August 2000, the National Park Service, through the Department of the Interior, requested assistance from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the US Coast Guard to evaluate visitor and employee carbon monoxide (CO) exposures from generators and propulsion engines on houseboats. This initial investigation characterized CO poisonings through epidemiologic data gathering and the measurement of severely hazardous CO concentrations on houseboats at Lake Powell. Since that initial investigation, over 600 boating-related poisonings in 35 states have been identified with over 100 of these poisonings resulting in death. Over 250 of the poisonings occurred on houseboats, with more than 200 of these poisonings attributed to generator exhaust alone.

Initial investigations conducted by NIOSH industrial hygienists and engineers showed very high concentrations of CO on and around houseboats using gasoline-powered generators. Following these investigations, NIOSH worked with major houseboat and generator manufacturers to evaluate novel engineering controls to reduce CO concentrations in occupied areas on houseboats. This work led to collaborations with external partners to evaluate new engineering technologies designed to reduce CO poisonings on many other types of recreational boats (including ski boats and express cruisers). Since the start of this project, new catalyst-based low CO emission generators and stern-drive engines have been developed by manufacturers to help address this issue. This work has been conducted since 2002 under a continuing Interagency agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Robson Forensic Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

¹ http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/coboating/#b

Carbon monoxide is developed when there is incomplete burning during the combustion process in an engine. As perfect combustion rarely occurs, CO is commonly present in the exhaust from gasoline engines, such as the generator used in the incident houseboat. CO is neutrally buoyant in air and dangerous concentrations can build up very quickly. The NIOSH recommended immediately dangerous to life and health concentration (IDLH) for CO is 1200 parts per million (ppm).

The Houseboat Industry Association website (www.houseboatindustry.org) has direct links to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) website through the Standards and Regulations tab. At the NIOSH site there are more than ten listed engineering reports on houseboat/carbon monoxide/exhaust stacks that all center on the issue of carbon monoxide. The earliest of these reports on houseboats, from September 2000, is titled An Evaluation of Catalytic Emission Controls and Vertical Exhaust Stacks to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisonings from Houseboat Generator Exhausts. NIOSH has an additional six engineering reports, listed under Health Hazard Evaluations on the same website, that deal specifically with exhaust stacks or CO. One of these studies from April 2001 done on Lake Mead at Echo Bay, eight years before Joshua Murphy's death, is titled Evaluation of Houseboat Generator Exhaust at Lake Mead. This report is addressed to Mr. Bob Clark, Vice President, Seven Crown Resorts, 322 Lakeshore Road, Boulder City, Nevada.

In the April 2001 report, the tested generator on the Summit Ship Houseboat (Westerbeke 8.5 kW 4 cylinder 1.0 liter) exhausted over the starboard side of the houseboat, in the same location as the incident houseboat. A condensed table of the readings is included for the part of the test that only had generators, not propulsion (outboard) engines, operating. This test was done on 25 January 2001. It is significant to note the CO reading when the wind speed (in Feet Per Minute-fpm) is very slow; the CO level is deadly (The NIOSH recommended IDLH for CO is 1200 ppm.)

O	Windspeed	Reading # 1	Reading # 2	Average Reading
Summit Ship Houseboat	0-13 FPM	1400 ppm	4200 ppm	3300 ppm

Seven Crown Resorts knew about the health hazards of CO poisonings from generators on houseboats.

The incident houseboat, Nevada registration Number NV3281KF, was built by Master Fabricators in 1980. While there is no documentation presented when the generator was changed out, the generator engine nameplate indicates a date of manufacture of February 2008.

The generator present at the time of the incident is not the original generator but a replacement installed sometime after February 2008. Sometime in 2006/2007 Seven Crown Resorts made a decision to replace the older generator. Part of this decision making process was to determine to either use a:



- 1. Standard generator engine with uplift exhaust system (as was fitted on the incident houseboat),
- 2. A Safe-COTM generator, or equivalent, or
- 3. Install either a standard generator or a Safe-COTM and a vertical stack that exhausts the gases above and away from the inhabitants.

The first option is the decision that Seven Crown Resorts made notwithstanding overwhelming data that both Option 2 and Option 3 are safer than Option 1.

The second option -reducing the amount of CO generated- is viable but has some shortcomings. Once purchased, the engine needs to be properly maintained, including changing out of oxygen sensors and tested to verify performance. A second issue is that a failure of the control system could result in a dangerous situation without notice. Westerbeke Safe-COTM engines, for example, were tested after running for 1 season and they performed very well. (An Evaluation of Catalytic Emission Controls to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisonings from Houseboat Generator Exhaust, Callville Bay Marina, Bolder City Nevada EPHB No. 171-38a) However, prior to testing, a damaged oxygen sensor needed to be replaced. The final sentence of the 4th recommendation, from this report is "The vertical exhaust stack should be retrofitted to existing and older generators as well as onto the new Safe-COTM generators for system redundancy."

The third option -vertical exhaust stacks regardless of the engine- is less sensitive to failure. NIOSH studies as early as 2001, on Lake Powell and Somerset, Kentucky demonstrated that exhaust stacks extending 9' above the upper deck of a houseboat "dramatically reduced the CO concentrations on and near the houseboat and provided a much safer environment." (Pg 2 An Evaluation of Catalytic Emission Controls and Vertical Exhaust stacks to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisonings from Houseboat Generator Exhaust, September 2005, Report EPHB 171-36a) As previously noted, CO is neutrally buoyant in air. If the exhaust stack terminates 9' above the highest occupied deck, the chance of poisoning where people using houseboats may congregate are minimal.

The first two recommendations of this 2005(EPHB 171-36a) study by NIOSH are telling:

- 1. All manufacturers/owners/users of U.S. houseboats with gasoline-powered generators should be aware of and concerned about location of the exhaust terminus. Based on data from numerous NIOSH field surveys, we recommend that houseboats with gasoline-powered generators be evaluated for potential CO exposures and poisonings, and retrofitted with control systems to reduce the potential hazard of CO poisoning.
- 2. The vertical exhaust stack on the Fun Country Marine houseboats performed well during the current study. Based on the results of this and previous NIOSH evaluations of the vertical exhaust stack, NIOSH research indicates that when properly designed and installed, the vertical stack is a viable, low-cost, engineering control that will dramatically improve the safety of houseboat users.



September 2005.

A read through First Time Houseboater Tips on the Seven Crown Resorts website reveals three items:

- Seven crown Resorts is not expecting expert operators for the houseboat
 - o "if you can drive a car, you can operate a houseboat"
- Swimming is large part of the houseboat experience
 - o "Bring two, or three, bathing suits"
- More than likely, kids are going to be part of the picture
 - o "especially if you are traveling with youngsters"

In another study conducted by NIOSH, Comparison of a Drystack with Existing Generator Exhaust Systems for Prevention of Carbon Monoxide Poisonings on Houseboats (EPHB 171-28a) dated August 2001, the study "confirmed the results of the previous study-average CO concentrations on the swim platform were approximately 1 ppm with the generator operating and exhausting through the drystack." Further, on page 21 it is "extremely important to direct the exhaust away from water or other areas where people may be located. At these levels, individuals swimming in the area around the exhaust, or around the area on or directly behind the swim platform (near the water) could quickly experience CO poisoning or death."

At the time of the August 2001 report (page 11) Fun Country Marine estimated the cost of a drystack exhaust system would be between \$500 to \$1000, if the work was done out of the water, and between \$1000 and \$1500 if the work was done while the boat was in the water.

There is a long held hierarchal standard, in industry of Design, Guard, Warn to address problems that exist. It is the duty of the engineer to first design out the problem. If that is not feasible, the second layer is to guard or protect the party from the problem. The least effective method is to warn of the problem is the design is not feasible and the guarding would prevent the practical use of the item. In the case of the generator exhaust the simple, cost effective design is to include a vertical stack to exit the exhaust away from people using the houseboat. When the boat was originally built, 1980, the problem of the CO may not have been known. By 2001 the problem was well known to Seven Crown Resorts. When Seven Crown Resorts decided to re-power the generator, it was a simple fix to design the CO problem out of the houseboat.

Seven Crown Resorts knew, or should have known, that a vertical stack arrangement on a houseboat generator was a viable, low cost, dramatically safer approach to generator exhaust systems, with regards to CO poisoning, than a standard uplift exhaust system discharging over the side.

The actions/inactions of Seven Crown Resorts were a cause in the death of Joshua Murphy.



5.0 FINDINGS

Within the bounds of reasonable engineering and technical certainty, and subject to change if additional information becomes available, it is my opinion that:

- 5.1 Seven Crown Resorts knew about the health hazards of CO poisonings from generators on houseboats.
- 5.2 Seven Crown Resorts knew, or should have known, that a vertical stack arrangement on a houseboat generator was a viable, low cost, dramatically safer approach to generator exhaust systems, with regards to CO poisoning, than a standard uplift exhaust system discharging over the side.
- 5.3 The actions/inactions of Seven Crown Resorts were a cause in the death of Joshua Murphy.

Arthur W. Faherty (electronically signed)

goth while

Robson Forensic
Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

EXHIBIT 5

			MLEU
	NICT COURT DUNTY, NEVAD		12 51 PH 31
In the Matter of the Estate of	,	se No. P-10-0675	31
JOSHUA MURPHY,) De	pt. H	
Deceased.)		
LETTERS OF SPEC	CIAL ADMINIST	RATION	
On the 29 th day of January, 2010, the Court ea/k/a MARY JOLYNN MURPHY-MILLER a/k/a JOI			
MURPHY-MILLER and states that she is the same pe	rson as MARY JOLY	/NN-MURPHY-MIL	LER, as Special
Administrator of the Decedent's Estate. The Order inc	ludes:		
A directive for no bond;			
☐ A directive for the establishment of blocked account	its;		
□ A directive for the posting of bond in the sum of \$_	; or		
☐ A directive for both the establishment of blocked ac	counts for sums in e	ccess of \$	and the
posting of bond in the sum of \$			
The Special Administrator, having duly quali	ified, may act and has	the authority and du	ties of Special
Administrator.			
In testimony of which, I have this date signed	d these Letters and af	fixed the seal of the C	Court.
	CL	ERK OF THE COUR PAE ROMAS	RT MAR 1 3 2010

Deputy Clerk

Date

OATH

I MARY JOLYNN MURPHY a/k/a MARY JOLYNN MURPHY-MILLER a/k/a MARY JOLYNN MURPHY-MILLER a/k/a JODI MURPHY a/k/a JODI MURPHY-MILLER a/k/a MJ MURPHY-MILLER and known forthwith as MARY JOLYNN MURPHY-MILLER, whose mailing address is 455 Lawndale Drive, Spring Creek, Nevada, 89815 solemnly affirm that I will faithfully perform according to law the duties of Special Administrator and that all matters stated in any petition or paper filed with the Court by me are true of my own knowledge or, if any matters are stated on information and belief, I believe them to be true.

SUBSCRIBED AND AFFIRMED before me this day of March, 2010.

CLERK OF COURT

Marcy blynd Musph hillen

ADMINISTRATOR

By: RAE ROHUS

Deputy Clerk (OR)

NOTARY PUBLIC

County of ___ State of ____

EXHIBIT 6

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	SAM HARDING LAW FIRM SAM HARDING, ESQ., #1877 1100 East Bridger Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89101 702-333-7777 Attorney for MARY JOLYNN MURPHY MARY JOLYNN MURPHY as Special Administrator of the ESTATE OF JOSHUA MURPHY PATRICK J. MURPHY, ESQ. #1222 1100 East Bridger Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89101 702-259-4600	Electronically Filed 03/18/2010 08:58:17 AM Alm A. Laluman CLERK OF THE COURT			
9	DISTRICT COU	₽Τ			
10					
11	CLARK COUNTY, N	A-10-612210-c			
12		CASE NO. 10-A			
13	MICHAEL BROWNING, individually)	DEPT. XIII			
14	MURPHY, deceased, and MARY				
15	Administrator of the ESTATE OF JOSHUA				
16	Plaintiffs,				
17	vs)				
18					
19					
20	CORPORATIONS 1 through 100, inclusive,				
21	Defendants.)				
22					
23	COMPLAIN	Γ			
	COME NOW PLAINTIFFS, MARY JOLYNN MURPHY (hereinafter referred to as				
24	"JOLYNN MURPHY"), individually and as the natural parents of JOSHUA MURPHY,				
25	deceased, and MARY JOLYNN MURPHY as Special Administrator of the Estate of JOSHUA				
26	MURPHY, deceased, by and through their counsel of record, SAM HARDING, ESQ., of the				
27	SAM HARDING LAW FIRM and PATRICK J. MUR	PHY, ESQ of PATRICK MURPHY &			
28	ASSOCIATES, and for their cause of action, complain	and allege as follows:			

- 1. At all times material to this action, Plaintiff MARY JOLYNN MURPHY, was and is a resident of the State of Nevada and the natural mother of JOSHUA MURPHY, deceased.
- 2. At all times material to this action, Plaintiff MICHAEL BROWNING, was and is a resident of the State of Nevada and the natural father of JOSHUA MURPHY, deceased.
- 3. On February 9, 2010, JOLYNN MURPHY was appointed Special Administrator of the Estate of JOSHUA MURPHY for the purpose of this litigation.
- 4. At all times mentioned herein SEVEN RESORTS, INC., was and is a Domestic Corporation qualified to and doing business in the State of Nevada as SEVEN CROWN RESORTS (hereinafter referred to as 'SEVEN CROWN") and was in the business of renting, leasing, selling, advertising, inspecting and recommending for use to the general public recreational equipment, including the Summit Houseboat identified in Exhibit 1 attached hereto, for use on Lake Mead in Clark County, Nevada.
- 5. The true names and capacities of the Defendants designated herein as DOE or ROE CORPORATIONS are presently unknown to Plaintiffs at this time who, therefore, sue said Defendants by such fictitious names and when their true names and capacities are ascertained, Plaintiffs will amend this Complaint accordingly to insert the same herein.

Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based upon such information and belief, allege, that Defendants, and each of them, designated as DOES, and/or ROE CORPORATIONS are, in some manner, responsible for the occurrences and injuries sustained by Plaintiffs, as alleged.

6. That at all times mentioned herein, each of the Defendants herein named, were the agents, servants, and employees of each of the remaining Defendants, and at all times mentioned herein each was acting within the time, place and scope of said agency and employment.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Negligence)

- 7. That on August 17, 2009, Plaintiff MICHAEL BROWNING reserved the use of a Summit Houseboat from Seven Crown through the *Houseboating org website*.
- 8. That on August 20, 2009, Plaintiff MICHAEL BROWNING and his family, including, but not limited to JOSHUA MURPHY, minor, deceased, (hereinafter referred to as "JOSHUA")

were using the Summit Houseboat in the manner in which it was intended at Lake Mead in Clark County, Nevada.

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- 9. That on August 20, 2009, JOSHUA was on a raft at or near the swim platform of the beached houseboat. Plaintiff BROWNING was preparing dinner and JOSHUA was seen by another family member on a raft in close proximity to the swim platform of the beached houseboat when he went to tell JOSHUA that dinner would be ready in a few minutes.
- 10. Within five minutes BROWNING called to JOSHUA that dinner was ready and when he received no response, discovered JOSHUA MURPHY was gone from the raft. BROWNING then found JOSHUA MURPHY floating face-down in the water at the back of the boat.
- 10 11. BROWNING immediately pulled JOSHUA into the boat and initiated CPR on JOSHUA. 11 and the Lake Mead National Park Service was immediately called.
- 12 12. When the Lake Mead Park Service arrived they moved JOSHUA to Echo Bay where he 13 was then airlifted to University Medical Center and was pronounced dead.
- 14 13. That an autopsy report from the Clark County, Nevada Coroner's office listed the cause 15 of death as carbon monoxide poisoning.
- 16 14. That JOSHUA was caused to inhale carbon monoxide gas from the defective exhaust system, causing JOSHUA to sustain permanent and serious injuries, including death.
 - 15. That Defendant SEVEN CROWNS, and each of them, owed a duty to all persons who could reasonably be foreseen to be on or upon said Summit Houseboat to inspect and maintain said houseboat in such a manner as to keep it free and safe from defective or dangerous conditions, including, but not limited to carbon monoxide gas. Said duty was owed by said Defendants to the Plaintiffs, and in particular to JOSHUA.
 - 16. That Defendant SEVEN CROWNS, and each of them, breached said duty by neglecting to install a Safe-CO generator or to install a standard generator and a vertical stack that exhausts the gases above and away from the inhabitants including those in the water under the swim platform, where deadly, odorless, carbon monoxide fumes can accumulate and overcome swimmers
 - 17. That on August 20, 2009, Plaintiffs relied upon said representations and warranties and

had no knowledge of the unsafe quality of the Summit Houseboat provided by SEVEN CROWNS.

- 18. That the Summit Houseboat was not fit for the purpose for which it was intended in that it was so defectively designed, manufactured, tested, produced, delivered, maintained, repaired, assembled, inspected and installed, when used by the Plaintiff in the usual and normal manner, it caused severe and permanent injury, including death, in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars.
- 19. Plaintiffs have been required to engage the services of an attorney to bring this action and are, therefore, entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Warranty)

Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 19 above, as though fully set forth herein.

- 20. Defendants, and each of them, warranted and represented that the Summit Houseboat referenced in Exhibit 1, was of merchantability quality.
- 21. The Summit Houseboat referenced in Exhibit 1 was not of merchantable quality in that when used in the normal manner by Plaintiff BROWNING, it caused severe and permanent injuries, including death, to JOSHUA.
- 22. Defendants, and each of them, owed a duty to all persons, including Plaintiffs and JOSHUA, who could reasonably be foreseen to be on or upon said Summit Houseboat to inspect and maintain said Summit Houseboat in such a manner as to keep it free and safe from defective or dangerous conditions, including, but not limited to carbon monoxide gas.
- 23. That the Defendants, and each of them breached said duty by allowing a dangerous and defective condition to exist thereon, to wit: exposing JOSHUA, and all other Plaintiffs, to be exposed to carbon monoxide and potentially carbon monoxide poisoning and Defendants, and each of them, knew or should have known that such dangerous conditions existed and was the actual and proximate cause of death to JOSHUA.
- 24. By reason of the premises and as a direct and proximate result thereof, JOSHUA suffered

severe and permanent injuries and was otherwise injured and caused to suffer great pain of body and mind; all of some of which conditions may be permanent and disabling in nature, all to her damage in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars.

- 25. That by reason of the premises and as a direct and proximate result thereof Plaintiffs and the Estate of Joshua Murphy has incurred expenses for medical care and treatment and funeral expenses incidental thereto, all to their damage, the present amount of which is unascertainable. Plaintiff, Estate of Joshua Murphy, prays leave of the Court to insert all said damages herein when the same have been fully ascertained.
- 26. That Plaintiffs have been required to engage the services of an attorney to bring this action and are, therefore, entitled to attorney's fees and costs.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Warn)

Plaintiff repeat and reallege each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 26 of the First and Second Cause of Action as though same were fully set out herein.

- 27. The negligence of the Defendants, and each of them, in addition to that hereinabove alleged includes, but is not limited to the following as identified by NIOSH, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health following a January 24-25, 2001 inspection at Lake Mead.
- 28. Defendants, and each of them, were advised as follows:
 - The open space under the swim platform could be lethal under certain circumstances, i.e., generator/motor exhaust discharging into this area on some houseboats;
 - b. Some CO concentrations above and around the swim platform were at or above the immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) level (greater than 1,200 parts of CO per million parts of air [ppm]).
- 29. That prior to August 20, 2009, Defendants, and each of them, were made aware of the danger invoked by the carbon monoxide vents and refused to take reasonable care to correct the dangerous and hazardous condition and in failing to warn the Plaintiff of its existence and failed

 to warn Plaintiffs of the dangers of using the Summit houseboat due to the faulty carbon monoxide vent system.

- 30. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant, and each of them, JOSHUA died from carbon monoxide poisoning all to the damage of the Plaintiffs, and each of them, in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars.
- 31. Plaintiffs have been required to engage the services of an attorney to bring this action and are, therefore, entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Misrepresentation)

Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 31 above, as though fully set forth herein.

- 32. Defendants, and each of them, were engaged in the distribution, introducing, transporting, delivering, advertising, selling and leasing and recommending for use to the general public the Summit Houseboat with a defective carbon monoxide venting system, with the knowledge that said product was to be used by the general public, including Plaintiffs, and that Defendants, and each of them, represented and warranted said product was fit for the purpose intended.
- 33. That on or before August 20, 2009, Plaintiffs relied upon said representation and warranties and had no knowledge of the unsafe quality of the Summit Houseboat referenced in Exhibit 1.
- 34. Said Summit Houseboat was not fit for the purpose for which it was intended in that it was so defectively designed, produced, delivered, maintained, repaired, assembled, inspected and installed, that when used by the Plaintiffs in the usual and normal manner for which it was intended, caused severe injuries, and death, to JOSHUA as hereinbefore stated in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars.
- 35. Plaintiffs have been required to engage the services of an attorney to bring this action and are therefore, entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Strict Liability)

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- Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 35 above, as though same were fully set forth herein.
- 36. Defendants, and each of them, introduced into the stream of commerce in the United States of America, at Clark County, Nevada, that certain Summit Houseboat referenced in Exhibit 1 attached hereto, while it was in a dangerous and defective condition.
- 37. Defendants, and each of them, are strictly liable to Plaintiffs because of the dangerous and defective nature of the Summit Houseboat referenced in Exhibit 1 attached hereto.
- Defendants, and each of them, were aware of the dangerous and defective condition when 38. introduced into the stream of commerce by Defendants, and each of them, in particular in Clark County, Nevada, and failed to ensure that the carbon monoxide system was properly vented. and/or the Plaintiffs were warned of the dangerous and defective condition, particularly when used for the purpose for which it was intended and that it would cause serious injury or death to the users thereof, including Plaintiffs.
- 39. That the above facts were known to Defendants and each of them, or in the exercise of due care, should have been known to the Defendants and each of them, and in the condition, Defendants possessed special knowledge of the materials, design, character and assemblage of said Product, Plaintiffs, at no time, had any special knowledge and at not time were they aware, or made aware of the danger and defective condition of the Summit houseboat.
- Although possessed of the special knowledge of the dangerous and defective condition, 40. Defendants, and each of them, negligently and carelessly failed to warn the Plaintiffs of said condition.
- Plaintiffs have been required to engage the services of an attorney to bring this action and 41. are therefore entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
- 42. As a direct and proximate result of the dangerous and defective condition of said product, Plaintiff JOSHUA and all other Plaintiffs, including the Estate of Joshua Murphy was caused to suffer severe and permanent injuries, including death, all to their damage in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars.
- 43. Plaintiffs have been required to engage the services of an attorney to bring this action and

1 are, therefore, entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs. 2 SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION 3 (Punitive Damages) Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 4 5 43 above, as though fully set forth herein. 6 Defendants, and each of them, by said actions, acted with willful misconduct and with 44. 7 conscious and/or reckless disregard of the safety of the Plaintiffs and others. Due to said 8 misconduct, Plaintiff seeks punitive and exemplary damages to be assessed against the 9 Defendant, and each of them. 10 45. Plaintiffs have been required to engage the services of an attorney to bring this action and are, therefore, entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs. 11 Wherefore, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against the Defendants, and each of them, as 12 follows: 13 FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: 14 For damages in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars. 15 1. 2. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs; 16 For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper. 17 3. 18 SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: For damages in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars. 19 1. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs; 20 2. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper. 21 3. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION: 22 For damages in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars. 23 1. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs; 24 2. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper. 25 3. FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION: 26 For damages in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars. 27 1. 28 For reasonable attorney's fees and costs; 2.

1	3. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.			
2	FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION:			
3	. For damages in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars.			
4	For reasonable attorney's fees and costs;			
5	. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.			
6	SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION:			
7	1. For punitive and exemplary damages in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000)			
8	Dollars;			
9	For damages in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars.			
10	For reasonable attorney's fees and costs;			
11	4. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.			
12	Dated this 9 day of March, 2010.			
13 14	SAM HARDING LAW FIRM			
15	mm H.			
16	SAM HARDING, ESQ., #1877 1100 E. Bridger Avenue			
17	Las Vegas, NV 89101 Attorney for MARY JOLYNN MURPHY			
18	MARY JOLYNN MURPHY as Special Administrator ESTATE OF JOSHUA MURPHY			
19				
20	DA STOLVE LA MEDRUY ESO #1222			
21	PATRICK J. MURPHY, ESQ. #1222 1100 East Bridger Avenue Las Vegas NV 89101			
22	702-259-4600 Attorney for MICHAEL BROWNING			
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